WORLD SOCCER

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FEBRUARY 1972

World SOCCER
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WORLD SOCCER
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Editor PHILIP RISING

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Contents

		Page
World Diary	Roger Macdonald	4
Closing in on Juventus	Philip Evans	6
Dr. Käser of FIFA	Ken Oultram	7
1971 International Review	Eric Batty	8
European Draws		10
Personal Opinion	Leslie Vernon	11
Around the World		12
Club Focus on Nacional	Jack Rollin	14
Names Make News	Norman Cutler	16
Around the World		18
United, City or Leeds?	Eric Thornton	19
Irish news	Colin McAlpin	20
Players win appeal	Norman Cutler	22
West German newsletter	Arthur Rotmil	24
Dutch news	John Sparrow	25
On the Bosses	Martin Rogers	26
Looking at Soccer	Brian Glanville	28
News from France	Andre Duclos	30
Names make news	Norman Cutler	32
Australian news	Andre Dettre	34
News from Turkey	Brian Birch	35
Seen and Heard	Philip Rising	36
Post-War Survey	Eric Batty	38
Swiss news	Arthur Rotmil	40
Yeats says "Goodbye"	Eric Thornton	41
Rumanian FA set example	Arthur Rotmil	42
Advertising Feature		44
African round-up	Roger Macdonald	46
League Tables		48
Hungarian news	Leslie Vernon	50

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What a feast!

ENGLAND versus West Germany in the European Championship. . . Arsenal versus Ajax Amsterdam in the European Cup . . . Liverpool versus Leeds United in the FA Cup . . . and Chelsea versus Stoke City or West Ham United in the final of the Football League Cup. English football followers have much to look forward to in the near future but it is the clash of England and West Germany that has captured the public's imagination.

The Germans, with considerably less fixtures to cram into their season, will be well prepared. Provision was made months ago for the national squad to be brought together before the match and the dates for the two legs were left clear of league games.

Not so in England. There is a full League programme on April 29 and, although England would prefer to play the previous Wednesday, the Germans are unlikely to agree to a change of date. And who can blame them?

England against West Germany is an attractive match and one that Sir Alf Ramsey will relish. But it might have been better for both countries if they had managed to avoid each other until the later stages. England, hoping to stage the final rounds of the championship, must beat West Germany to be sure of bringing the final to Wembley.

Arsenal should have a full house for the visit of European Cup holders Ajax, including the brilliant Johan Cruyff. Arsenal beat Ajax two years ago in the Fairs Cup but the Dutch club have improved tremendously since then. Arsenal, who will be without Alan Ball, their expensive new signing, will do well to clear this hurdle.

Leeds United—playing as well as Real Madrid at their best, claims Don Revie—recently went to Anfield and beat Liverpool 2-0 in a league match. Home defeats come round about as frequently as Leap Year for Liverpool, so Bill Shankly was naturally upset. His chance for revenge will come in the fourth round of the FA Cup . . . and what a tie this promises to be.

West Ham and Stoke, having already played three matches, meet in a fourth game at Old Trafford on January 26 to try to answer the question of who meets Chelsea in the Football League Cup Final at Wembley on March 4.

COVER PICTURE

Chris Lawler, the polished, experienced Liverpool full-back, has been a regular member of the England squad since the last World Cup series. Lawler joined Liverpool from school and was a key member of the Anfield team that enjoyed so much success in the 1960s.

Egypt suspend league matches

"THERE will be no football in Britain as from next Saturday, according to a Whitehall statement published today. A Government spokesman, questioned about the dramatic move, explained that the decision to suspend all league matches had been taken as the result of last week's riot at Wembley, in which the crowd invaded the pitch, attacked the referee and stoned the police—over 100 of whom were injured."

Imaginary, of course, but only as far as Britain is concerned—for this staggering sequence of events has just occurred in Egypt, where there will be no professional football of any kind until further notice. The Egyptian F.A. have ordered the indefinite suspension of the national league, and all international friendlies have also been cancelled.

The move follows two riots at Egyptian matches on the same day—the more serious of the two taking place in Cairo, during the match between National and Zamalek. In the first half Zamalek looked the better side, and took an early lead, but after an hour's play National equalised, and with the crowd behind them, began to press Zamalek hard.

But in the 65th minute Zamalek broke away, there was a melee in the penalty area, and the referee awarded them a penalty. National's 'keeper, Marawan Kanafi, disputed the decision furiously, and it was some time before he could be induced to stand on his line. No sooner had Faorok Gaafar scored from the spot than spectators poured on to the pitch, and made for the referee.

Police fought them off, and for the next hour a battle raged in the stadium, with fans hurling missiles at the police, who replied with truncheons, tear gas, and eventually even opened fire over the heads of the crowd. About 90 policemen were injured, four of them seriously, and some 200 spectators required hospital treatment. Seven cars outside the stadium were overturned in the riot, and two of them were set on fire.

While this match was ending ahead of schedule in Cairo, another game in the Nile Delta town of Al Mahalla al Kobra also ended in chaos. Here El Mehalla, the local side, were beaten by the Alexandria club, Olympia, thanks to a goal by Ezzeddin hotly disputed on the grounds of offside. When the goal was given spectators hurled stones on to the pitch, and police made nearly 20 arrests. The match did continue, but the crowd got out of hand again at the final whistle. More stones were thrown, and the referee, Amin Umasa, was hit on the head by one of them, and had to be helped off the field.

The following morning the Transport Minister Soliman Abdul Hai, whose connection with the Egyptian F.A. I must confess remains obscure, announced the termination of competitive soccer on their behalf. Ironically the league championship had resumed only last October, after a hiatus of four years.

The ban on organised football was first imposed by the late President Nasser during the Arab-Israeli war of 1967, when it was feared that large crowds would make easy targets for Israel's bombers. It would seem, however, that football can be halted by more than one kind of war.

European Footballer of the Year, Johan Cruyff, scores for Ajax against Spartak Trnava of Czechoslovakia.

WORLD DIARY

by ROGER MACDONALD

TITLE FOR CRUYFF

Francis Lee, one of the English players to figure in the European Footballer of the Year poll.

NO one can begrudge Johann Cruyff his "Golden Ball". His performance in the 1971 European Cup Final, when only a most improbable slice of good fortune prevented Panathinaikos from being annihilated by Ajax Amsterdam, established him beyond doubt as a player of world class.

But, like some of his predecessors Cruyff remains an enigmatic figure, almost, dare one say it, in the George Best mould. He is capable of stunning performances on the field, and of incredible stupidity off it. One recalls the endless wrangles over pay with Ajax, the constant rumour and counter-rumour of his impending transfer for one breach of discipline or another.

Then there are the days when Cruyff does not play at all, because of an injury no doctor can diagnose, but which Cruyff stubbornly insists is not a figment of his imagination. Or the days when Cruyff might just as well be a cardboard cut-out, left neatly in one corner of the field, scarcely receiving a pass or making one.

And even that is preferable to the angry Cruyff, the impetuous Cruyff capable of verbal and physical violence—the sort of action that once cost him a long suspension after he was alleged to have struck the referee during an international against Czechoslovakia.

Still, this year—or, more precisely, over the last 12 months, it would be difficult to find a rival for the European award. George Best did little for Northern Ireland, and not much for Manchester United until the autumn; Sandro Mazzola had a marvellous season for Inter-Milan without lifting them clear of their rut of defensive football; Gunter Netzer took Munchengladbach to their second German title, but Borussia have still to make their impact on Europe; Franz Beckenbauer played as well as ever for Bayern Munich and West Germany, but by his own supreme standards it was a comparatively unsuccessful year. Little wonder that Cruyff received over twice as many votes as any one of his rivals.

Defenders

But the voting in the poll, organised by *France Football*, remains all too predictable, with its notable favouring of forwards that leads one to suspect that Europe's reporters are either surprisingly naïve, or watch too many action replays of goals of the decade. There must be many more defenders who deserve to finish among the top players in Europe—it's simply that preventing goals lacks the appeal of scoring them.

Also one must question the disturbing tendency of choosing a fresh name to top the poll each year, irrespective, almost, of his quality when compared with one of his predecessors. So far, in the 16 years that the Golden Ball has been awarded, only one man has won it twice—Alfredo Di Stefano of Real Madrid.

Although no British player won the award for this year, they did provide the largest number of players in the list—six in all, Best, Chivers, Moore, Lee, Cooper and Charlton—against five West Germans, Netzer, Beckenbauer, Muller, Vogts and Overath. Four clubs had two players in the list—Ajax, Bayern Munich, Borussia Munchengladbach and Manchester United.

Cruyff (Ajax) 116; Mazzola (Inter Milan) 57); Best (Manchester United) 56; Netzer (Munchengladbach) 30; Beckenbauer (Bayern Munich) 27; Skoblar (Marseilles), Muller (Bayern Munich) 18); Chivers (Tottenham) 13; Keizer (Ajax) 9; Bene (Ujpest), Moore (West Ham) 7; Rudakov (Dynamo Kiev) 6; Facchetti (Inter Milan), Domazos (Panathinaikos) 4; Dzajic (Red Star), Vogts (Munchengladbach), Pirri (Real Madrid) 3; Overath (Cologne), Lee (Manchester City), Cooper (Leeds United), Van Moer (Standard Liege) 2; Bobby Charlton (Manchester United), Chesternev (CSKA Moscow) 1.

Previous winners: 1956 Matthews; 1957 Di Stefano; 1958 Kopa; 1959 Di Stefano; 1960 Suarez; 1961 Sivori; 1962 Masopust; 1963 Yashin; 1964 Law; 1965 Eusebio; 1966 Bobby Charlton; 1967 Albert; 1968 Best; 1969 Rivera; 1970 Muller.

CLOSING IN ON JUVENTUS

by PHILIP EVANS

FIRST Mazzola, and not merely on account of the fact that he gained second place in France Football's annual poll for the European footballer of the year. The fact is that Mazzola is, and always has been, a player whose gifts have lent themselves towards argumentative discussion. Far away from the fan clubs of AC Milan they say of Mazzola that he is "un presuntuoso", a man who thinks—and speaks—of his talents more highly than he has any right to.

Gifted

The fact is that his talents have been much misused of late. He was unquestionably the Italian's most effective player in Mexico—Boninsegna's skillful efforts apart. And since the World Cup he has been thoroughly misused by both Inter and Italy. For Inter he has too often been forced into the role of auxiliary striker. And for Italy he has been leased a barren territory on the right wing.

Mazzola is a superbly gifted runner with, and striker of, the ball. What he has always lacked—and this is intended in no sense as a polemical comment but as stark truth—is the ability to strike a ball great distances with pinpoint accuracy and from midfield. In this sense, Rivera is his peer, Suarez (even now) his master.

Supporters

The complications, and the arguments, reached a peak of height when Corso was suspended from competitive action in the European Cup and Mazzola was forced—and never was a man forced less unwillingly—into the role of *regista* of the Inter attack, the man responsible for dictating the patterns of play and oiling the attacking machinery. Inter assume that Corso is their man, and it is true that Corso has—for instance Riviera's—ta'ent for the split, searching pass. But even the most avid of Corso's supporters must be forced to admit that their idol's form has failed to live up to the sublime standards he set last season. And the problem of whether Mazzola, or Corso, should dictate the patterns of Inter's play remains.

Notwithstanding the discussions, Inter have blossomed recently. After a string of matches in which their attack totally failed to live up to its reputed form, they put four past Vicenza on a Thursday—a match postponed from the pre-Christmas snows and fog—and four past Sampdoria the succeeding Sunday. Against Samp, they also happened to let four in, which made Heriberto Herrera delighted. Draws against Inter at San Siro are not easy to achieve.

Inclusion

Cagliari have gained seven points from their last four games and are happily in touch with the leaders of the league table. With Domenghini back in the side after injury, with Cera finding form in midfield and the defence genuinely strengthened by the inclusion of a tamed Poletti, Cagliari must be in with a chance of forcing the pace in the spring months to come.

Juventus travelled to San Siro and drew with Inter, travelled to Cagliari and lost by the odd goal in three. Sticky pitches—and pitches in Italy are no one's honeymoon once the rains and snows come—are perhaps not suited to their style of play, with Capello's long passes and Causio's industry when the going is firm. But Juve still lead the table.

"Needle"

Milan, as ever, patchy. They made up the secondary "needle" match on the day that Juventus travelled to Milan by travelling themselves and playing Torino. A goalless draw, which surprised nobody. Rivera has had influenza, and before the cynics make their usual remarks, it might be worth mentioning that it does appear to have been genuine, that Gianni has played angellically on the occasions for which he has been comprehensively fit.

Bologna appear to have sorted out some of their troubles and are pulling laboriously away from the nether reaches of the table. And Fiorentina continue to ammass points, now lie third in the table behind Juventus and AC Milan.

With only a handful of points to separate the top seven or eight clubs in the league table ,the battle continues. And for one, I find the thing a refreshing change from the usual two, or three, horse race.

Roma goalkeeper Quintini, an eighteen-year-old making his senior debut, makes a brave effort to prevent Bruno Pace of Bologna from scoring in an Italian league match.

Dr Käser of FIFA

Interview by KEN OULTRAM

HEARD about the young lady who left the United Nations Organisation for a bigger concern? She joined FIFA! Her name is Rosemary Boswell and she's London-born. And, like the other girls who work at the world soccer HQ of the Federation Internationale De Football Association, Rosemary is hypnotised by the charm, personality and total dedication of FIFA's general secretary Dr. Helmut Käser.

We met at FIFA House on the secluded wooded slopes of the Sonnenberg (sunny mountain) overlooking Zurich, Switzerland's biggest city. He told me about himself.

Dr. Käser was born at Langnau, near Berne, in 1912, and gained a doctorate in law at Berne University in 1937. After working in the legal department of the Swiss Government he became general secretary of the Swiss FA; a position he held from 1942 to 1960. "When the vacancy arose with FIFA it was natural that I should apply," he said. "I took over on January 1, 1961."

FIFA has had only five general secretaries since its inception in 1904. The first was French, the second Dutch and the third German. Dr. Käser's predecessor was also Swiss.

FIFA moved to its present HQ in 1954, although Zurich had been its base from 1928. FIFA House, as it is known, was actually built as the residence of a wealthy Swiss industrialist in 1921. Today the basement, ground and first floors are used for FIFA administration. The second floor, with its five rooms, is "home" for Dr. Käser, his Swiss-born wife Silvia, daughter Barbara (24), son Dieter (22)—he's on the books of Zurich Grasshopper—and pets Mischa, an eight-year-old dachshund, and Yo Yo, a four-year-old German shepherd dog.

Five continents

Few (are there others?) of the world's soccer personalities can live, as Dr. Käser does, "on the job" and frequently he works a seven-day week, "although I do get away for an average of two months each year," he added. His soccer sorties have taken him to all five continents; to at least half of the 140 member countries. FIFA has more members than the Olympic Movement and, at the time of writing, Abu Zabi (Persian Gulf) was awaiting affiliation.

Dr. Käser is, in fact, as familiar to skis as he is to the world's football stadia. He was a gold medallist in pre-war Swiss Army championships—his present rank is Colonel—and he participated in competition until 1945. Today he maintains peak fitness for his winter sports with frequent runs through the pine glades of the Adlisberg on the lovely Sonnenberg.

"Sometimes I go for a run just to clear my head," he said. For each day brings something like 100 letters from many parts of the globe. "Occasionally, small boys knock on the outside door and ask us for old postage stamps for their collections!"

All correspondence, both incoming and outgoing, is in one of four languages—English, French, Spanish and German. All members of the staff are linguists.

FOOTNOTE: FIFA welcomes subscriptions to FIFA NEWS, the monthly publication which is printed in English, French and Spanish. Cheques for £2, five dollars (USA) or 20 Swiss Francs should be sent to FIFA, Public Relations, PO Box 136, 8030 Zurich, Switzerland.

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1971—REVIEW THE

by ERIC BATTY

ENGLAND and Russia were the only two European international teams to remain unbeaten in 1971 and together with the West Germans they are, on paper at least, the teams to be feared in 1972. Feared they will be—and respected too—at least by prospective opponents but it suggests that the game as a whole is in a sorry state when one reflects that few people will love them.

Gerd Muller is congratulated by some of his West German colleagues after scoring against Poland in Warsaw.

Overall the West Germans are perhaps a better balanced side, though with a known weakness in goal. They also have a better balanced attack with three forwards upfield and usually at least one winger. This alone makes them quite remarkable in this period of the game's evolution when 4-4-2 appears to be the game for everyone.

For Russia, England and the Italians, 4-4-2 is the playing system adhered to with or without a 'libero' because it is thought to hold the greatest chance of success. For many others with less forceful or less skilful teams it is the combination most likely to avoid defeat. These two faces of the system make it almost universally popular with team-managers and one can only wonder that the crowds—often close on 100,000—have not tired of seeing matches in which both teams seek to win by avoiding defeat.

This question must inevitably pop up here for with each team playing a different number of games and against different opposition, the figures alone cannot be left to decide which are the best teams of 1971. Thinking back and comparing the two unbeaten teams in a bid to find the European's top team it just can't be avoided. The last time I saw England in the flesh was in the Wembley game against Switzerland when they only got the ball when it seemed that Kobi Kuhn didn't want it. Again, the last time I saw the Russians was against Northern Ireland at Windsor Park on a day when they only got inside the Irish half twice!

In such circumstances, one can surely be forgiven for hesitating to nominate either side?

Looking at the summary of performances it will be quite clear that several well-placed teams should come further down the list while others should be higher. These things happen because a country plays relatively few matches, mostly against poor opposition and inevitably does well—while others may do well but sustain one or two defeats because they are playing for stiffer opposition.

International

January
Argentina 3, France 4
Cyprus 1, Greece 2

February
Malta 0, England 1
Cyprus 0, N. Ireland 3
Uruguay 0, East Germany 3
Belgium 3, Portugal 0
Mexico 0, Russia 0
El Salvador 0, Russia 1
Italy 1, Spain 2
Albania 0, West Germany 1
Belgium 3, Scotland 0
Uruguay 1, East Germany 1
Mexico 0, Russia 0
Holland 6, Luxembourg 0

March
Spain 2, France 2
Israel 2, Sweden 1

April
Greece 0, Bulgaria 1
N. Ireland 5, Cyprus 0
Yugoslavia 0, Rumania 1
Wales 1, Czechoslovakia 3
Turkey 0, West Germany 3
Switzerland 5, Malta 0
Bulgaria 1, Russia 1
Yugoslavia 2, Holland 0
Austria 0, Hungary 2
England 3, Greece 0
Portugal 2, Scotland 0
Hungary 1, France 1
East Germany 2, Luxembourg 1

May
East Germany 1, Yugoslavia 2
Switzerland 1, Greece 0
Albania 1, Poland 1
Czechoslovakia 1, Rumania 0
Sweden 4, Finland 1
Finland 0, Wales 1
Sweden 1, Austria 4
Denmark 1, Belgium 2
Norway 3, Iceland 1
Eire 1, Austria 4
Russia 2, Spain 1
Belgium 4, Luxembourg 0
Switzerland 2, Poland 4
Cyprus 0, Spain 2
Portugal 5, Denmark 0
England 5, Malta 0
Eire 1, Italy 2
Bulgaria 3, Hungary 0
Wales 0, Scotland 0
N. Ireland 0, England 1
England 0, Wales 0
Scotland 0, N. Ireland 1
England 3, Scotland 1
N. Ireland 1, Wales 0

June
Norway 1, Bulgaria 4
Sweden 0, Italy 0
Russia 1, Scotland 0
Greece 2, Malta 0
Norway 1, West Germany 7
Denmark 1, West Germany 3
Denmark 1, Scotland 0
West Germany 2, Albania 0
Finland 0, Czechoslovakia 4
Denmark 1, Sweden 3
Sweden 1, West Germany 0
Russia 6, Cyprus 1

EW OF E YEAR

Amongst the countries that I feel should be accorded a higher place are Italy and Yugoslavia. The Italians, beaten by Spain in a friendly match and drawing twice in European championship games—drawing largely because that was the safe way to qualification—have the players that would enable them to beat almost anyone. That is, if they were to adopt a more positive approach to the game.

The Yugoslavs also lost one match presumably on a day when both they and their Hungarian opponents were more concerned with experimenting with new players and methods than they were with winning. They, too, drew home games with East Germany (whom they beat away) and Luxembourg (whom they could have murdered) as well as drawing 2—2 with Brazil.

Long overdue

If Italy and Yugoslavia should be placed more favourably so too *should* Scotland who have been in the doldrums for some years. With a new team-manager there are indications of a revival that is long overdue. Considering the outstanding players that have been available to Scotland over recent years there seems no good reason why their record should not be as good as that of England though in fact and in performance they are, or have been, poles apart.

Amongst the teams which I feel are shown in the table in too good a position are Holland and Hungary. The Dutch have produced some fine players and two outstanding club teams in Ajax and Feyenoord but thus far they have failed to blend the players from these two clubs whose playing methods are quite different. The Hungarians have clearly improved since Rudolf Illovsky took over but it seems to me they are flattered somewhat to stand in fourth place in the ranking list.

The biggest snag, however, arises when one considers where these two countries should be for apart from Italy and Yugoslavia I cannot think of anyone who deserves on the quality of their performance to rank in fifth or sixth place. This, perhaps, is the most disturbing feature underlying this survey—that rarely can there have been so many ordinary teams and seldom has such a mediocre handful been allowed to dominate European soccer.

As surely as day follows night we shall not remain in this darkened basement into which the game has sunk, but it is quite impossible to say from which the new masters will come. It should be one of the most advanced professional countries—England, Italy, West Germany—but there is no sign yet that a new light is about to spark.

With no outstanding team available it would be foolish to name one team as being the best and therefore as I have done on several occasions in the past I prefer to group the top teams in categories:

Group A (the most difficult to beat):
England, Russia, West Germany, Italy.

Group B (teams that will win more than they lose):
Yugoslavia, Holland, Hungary ,Rumania.

Significantly, if we add Belgium to the teams in Group B we have all eight quarter finalists in the European Championship—the odd team out being Holland.

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCES

	P	W	D	L	Goals For. Agst.	% Success
England	9	7	2	0	19–4	88.8%
West Germany	9	7	1	1	24–4	83.3
Holland	5	4	0	1	19–5	80.0
Hungary	9	6	2	1	15–5	77.7
Belgium	6	4	1	1	13–3	75.0
Rumania	6	4	1	1	10–3	75.0
Russia	11	5	6	0	14–5	72.7
Spain	6	3	2	1	14–5	66.6
Italy	6	3	2	1	10–5	66.6
N. Ireland	7	4	1	2	11–3	64.2
Czechoslovakia	7	4	1	2	11–5	64.2
Sweden	9	5	1	3	12–8	61.1
Bulgaria	9	4	3	2	15–10	61.1
Switzerland	6	3	1	2	15–8	58.3
Austria	7	3	2	2	14–7	57.1
France	7	3	2	2	13–12	57.1
Yugoslavia	8	3	3	2	11–6	56.2
Portugal	5	2	1	2	9–6	50.0
Poland	7	2	3	2	12–9	50.0
East Germany	8	2	4	2	11–9	50.0
Albania	4	1	1	2	4–4	37.5
Wales	8	2	2	4	5–7	37.5
Denmark	7	2	1	4	8–14	35.7
Greece	9	2	2	5	7–12	33.3
Scotland	10	2	1	7	5–14	25.0
Turkey	5	1	0	4	2–15	20.0
Norway	8	1	1	6	8–27	18.7
Finland	7	0	2	5	2–17	14.3
Luxembourg	5	0	1	5	1–20	10.0
Eire	3	0	0	3	2–12	0
Cyprus	6	0	0	6	2–25	0
Malta	5	0	0	5	0–15	0
SOUTH AMERICA						
Brazil	7	3	4	0	8–5	71.4
Chile	6	3	1	2	8–7	58.3
Argentina	9	2	6	1	13–12	55.5
Paraguay	7	2	3	2	8–6	50.0
Peru	4	1	1	2	1–3	37.5
Mexico	8	1	4	3	3–13	37.5
Uruguay	5	0	2	3	2–8	20.0

ational results

July

Mexico 1, Greece 1
Paraguay 1, Argentina 1
Argentina 1, Paraguay 0
Chile 3, Paraguay 2
Brazil 1, Czechoslovakia 0
Argentina 1, Uruguay 0
Argentina 1, Uruguay 0
Brazil 1, Austria 1
Brazil 2, Yugoslavia 2
Brazil 0, Hungary 0
Chile 2, Argentina 2
Brazil 1, Paraguay 0
Peru 0, Paraguay 0
Argentina 1, Brazil 1
Chile 2, Uruguay 0
Argentina 2, Brazil 2
Uruguay 1, Argentina 1

August

Argentina 1, Chile 0
Paraguay 2, Chile 0
Peru 1, Chile 0
Paraguay 2, Peru 0
Finland 1, Norway 1
Poland 1, Russia 1
Sweden 3, Norway 0

September

Chile 1, Peru 0
Denmark 0, Finland 0
Hungary 2, Yugoslavia 1
Austria 1, Sweden 0
Norway 1, France 3
West Germany 5, Mexico 0
East Germany 1, Mexico 1
Finland 0, Rumania 4
Russia 1, N. Ireland 0
Poland 5, Turkey 1
Hungary 2, Bulgaria 0
E. Germany 1, Czechoslovakia 1
Italy 2, Mexico 0
Norway 1, Denmark 4
Switzerland 4, Turkey 0
Greece 0, Mexico 1
Yugoslavia 4, Mexico 0

October

France 0, Hungary 2
Italy 3, Sweden 0
Holland 3, East Germany 2
Austria 6, Eire 0
Poland 1, West Germany 3
Wales 3, Finland 0
Switzerland 2, England 3
N. Ireland 1, Russia 1
Scotland 2, Portugal 1
Yugoslavia 0, East Germany 0
Yugoslavia 0, Luxembourg 0
Hungary 4, Norway 0
Spain 0, Russia 0
Czecholovakia 1, Wales 0
Rumania 1, Bulgaria 1

November

France 2, Bulgaria 1
England 1, Switzerland 1
Scotland 1, Belgium 0
Rumania 2, Czechoslovakia 1
Albania 3, Turkey 0
Malta 0, Hungary 2
Bulgaria 2, Greece 2
West Germany 0, Poland 0
Italy 2, Austria 2
Portgal 1, Belgium 1
Spain 7, Cyprus 0
Rumania 2, Wales 0
Holland 8, Luxembourg 0

December

Holland 2, Scotland 1
Bulgaria 2, France 1
Greece 0, England 2
Turkey 1, Poland 0

EUROPEAN DRAWS

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP
England v. West Germany
Italy v. Belgium
Hungary v. Rumania
Yugoslavia v. Russia

EUROPEAN CUP
Arsenal v. Ajax
Celtic v. Ujpest Dozsa
Inter Milan v. Standard Liege
Feyenoord v. Benfica

CUP WINNERS CUP
Rangers v. Torino
Steau Bucharest v. Bayern Munich
Red Star Belgrade v. Moscow Dynamo
Aatvidaberg v. Dynamo E. Berlin

UEFA CUP
Wolves v. Juventus
Spurs v. UT Arad
Ferencvaros v. Zeleznicar Sarajevo
AC Milan v. Lierse FK

DIFFICULT TASK FOR ENGLAND

THE clash of England and West Germany in the quarter-finals of the European Championship promises to be an intriguing tie. One would have fancied these two teams to have reached the final had they been drawn apart, but as it is, Italy and Russia, in particular, must be pleased by the draw.

England, of course, beat West Germany in the Final of the 1966 World Cup and lost to them four years later in Mexico. For a number of years now the Germans have been one of the dominant countries on the international scene and have several outstanding players; among them Beckenbauer, Muller and Vogts, and the exciting Netzer, a relative newcomer to the national side.

The first leg will be staged in England, probably on Saturday, April 29, with the second leg on either May 13 or 14.

Emlyn Hughes of England and Liverpool.

The winners of this tie will meet either Italy or Belgium in the semi-finals. Italy, especially over two legs, must be firm favourites to win this one, but will not relish the thought of facing England or West Germany in a single game on foreign soil.

Hungary and Rumania have been paired together and the recent, much improved form of the Hungarian team should take them through. But Rumania must not be underestimated. They have some fine players and, if they get a good result in Budapest, might turn the tables on their illustrious opponents.

Formidable

The dour, strong Russian team should also reach the last four, but once again it will not be easy. Yugoslavia, on their day, are a formidable outfit.

While England drew tough opposition in the European Championship, Arsenal fared no better when the draw for the quarter-finals of the European Cup was made. A clash with Ajax, current holders of the trophy, is an attractive one. Ajax, inspired by the newly-crowned European Footballer of the Year, Johan Cruyff, lost to Arsenal in the Fairs Cup two years ago, but have improved considerably since then.

Infamous

Arsenal, playing the first leg away, face a difficult task, but if they can contain Cruyff, particularly in Amsterdam, they will be well on the road to success. Celtic, one of five previous winners of the competition still in contention, should get through against Ujpest Dozsa of Hungary, while Benfica, not the power they were, meet the second Dutch club, Feyenoord. Inter Milan, with that infamous tie against Borussia Moenchengladbach behind them, meet the strong Belgian side Standard Liege.

> **"It is a great draw from all respects. The West Germans are keen opponents of England—and England equally keen—I hope even more so. The memories of our previous matches should make these games great occasions."**
>
> **SIR ALF RAMSEY**

England have no interest in the Cup Winners Cup (both Liverpool and Chelsea being eliminated in the last round). Glasgow Rangers face Torino, but the favourites for this competition must be Bayern Munich, drawn against Steaua Bucharest. In the other matches, Red Star Belgrade meet Moscow Dynamo and Atvidaberg (shock conquerors of Chelsea) face Dynamo East Berlin.

Wolverhampton Wanderers, enjoying a splendid run of success both in the UEFA Cup and the English First Division, will need to be at their best against Juventus, leaders of the Italian league. Spurs, with unhappy memories of their visit to Rumania in the previous round of the UEFA Cup (against Rapid Bucharest), have drawn another Rumanian club in UT Arad. Ferencvaros meet Zeleznicar Sarajevo and AC Milan play Lierse SK.

Personal Opinion by LESLIE VERNON

Let's have a cup for clubs with an 'X'!

WHENEVER Sir Alf Ramsey goes to a football match these days, he is in the same position as a eunuch at a striptease show. The poor man is allowed to watch the performers, but cannot establish any sort of contact with them. The League clubs in their infinite stupidity have decided that their players are too valuable to be soiled by the demands of international football.

The proposal to abolish the Home International Championship was the thin edge of a greedy wedge, which would eventually do away with the European Championship and the World Cup as well. They seem to be bent on condemning us to watch idiotic, meaningless tournaments featuring the same teams, the same faceless faces.

A special Cup might be played for by clubs whose names contain the letter "X". The mind boggles, contemplating the excitement that a Final between Oxford and Crewe Alexandra would provide. Or yet another battle for teams drawn from the British Isles for a new trophy sponsored jointly by a giant tobacco firm and a company marketing cough-mixture.

Preparation

This brave, new, dull football world might not be so utopian as it sounds, if one realises how scandalously the national team manager has been treated. As it is, Ramsey could safely retire to write his memoirs until the eve of the European Championship quarter-final, when he'll be allowed to spend a glorious night with the national squad at the Hendon Hall hotel.

A good supper, a tactical talk the following morning should serve as ample preparation for the most important match of the season. This sad impasse is brought about by the usual problem of "fixture congestion". Even this weak excuse doesn't ring true when one considers that during this very season, Tottenham found time to play twice against Torino in an ill-conceived competition, Leeds travelled to Barcelona in search of easy money, Manchester City faced Gornik, Chelsea invited Rangers and Arsenal played no less than three "prestige" friendlies before the domestic campaign opened.

It also must be stated that most of the fixture clashes could have been avoided if a little more care would have been taken. The UEFA organising committee has published the dates set aside for their Cup competitions five years in advance. Yet when I looked at the League fixtures, I noticed with astonishment that the Spurs v. Arsenal game was scheduled for November 24, which was also the date of the third round of the UEFA Cup. I assumed that either the Spurs management had been unaware of this arrangement or they had no ambition to progress in the international tournament.

As luck would have it, their opponents, Rapid Bucharest agreed to a postponement because Rumania had a game against Wales that evening. Incidentally this match was also arranged over a year ago, and if Spurs really wished to release Mike England for it, they shouldn't have fixed the Arsenal match for Nov. 24!

This detailed examination of just one Wednesday night's football doesn't intend to be an attack on the Tottenham management, but I feel it is a perfect example of the lack of foresight and co-operation that typifies the relationship between clubs, players and National Associations. It is a simple fact that our top players are over-worked, consequently, the "Hardaker-plan" must be partially implemented at once.

The League Secretary suggested years ago that the number of teams in the First Division must be reduced to 20. In my view, four teams should be relegated at the end of the 72/73 campaign, and only two teams promoted from the Second Division. From then on a "three-up-three-down" system should operate between the First and the Second Divisions, and a "four-up-and-four-down" between the Second and Third, and the Third and Fourth.

Compulsory

A 24-strong Second Division would help financially the lesser clubs, and by creating a smaller Premier Division four dates would be left free for international dates. The release of players for all the Home Countries must be made compulsory, no new sponsored-tournaments should be given the green light, and the national team and its manager must be given every consideration. Many people say that our football shouldn't be run by two bodies, who are constantly engaged in a power struggle. I agree, but with the proviso that the sole governing authority must be the Football Association.

Several misleading headlines have suggested recently that the ITV have given up the struggle and won't compete with the BBC's sports coverage any longer. Nothing could be further from the truth. The ITV programme controller merely reiterated a sensible two-year-old proposal that the major sporting events should be covered alternately. The BBC stubbornly refused to co-operate, consequently, there won't be any alternative programme during the Cup Final and the Scotland v. England international.

I feel sorry for the "Daily Express" TV critic, who doesn't like football and has no idea how to amuse himself without the "moving wall-paper" for four hours per year. Still, his plight will not stop ITV continuing with World of Sport, which has an average audience of seven million.

Now that I have defended the honour of his channel, I'd like to pick a small quarrel with Jimmy Hill. In his New Year's "message", Jimmy asked referees to differentiate between booking players for foul play and for technicalities. This they simply cannot do—according to the laws of the game, both kinds of offences warrant the same punishment.

It is up to the Disciplinary Committees to mete out justice according to the nature of the "crime". But how can anyone trust a committee which invented the ludicrous, typically English compromise of registering cautions which do not count in the three within the 12 months period. Appeals against cautions are allowed or not allowed according to the number and importance of the people who turn up to talk on behalf of the accused.

Norman Hunter, for instance, successfully appealed against a booking recently, which he received in a match when he should have been booked twice (v. Manchester U.)! It's all a confusing mess, Jim lad, but don't pass the buck back to the poor old refs.!

Benfica unbeaten

LEAGUE leaders from the start, Benfica are still unbeaten after thirteen games and three clear points ahead of their closest challengers Setubal and Sporting. FC Porto, generally rated Portugal's third club, are having a hard time getting above mid table and Brazilian boss Paulo Amaral has found the same problems as those which beset his predecessors.

One bright spot for Porto is the form of centre forward Flavio who followed Amaral from Brazil. Making his bow after two games in the championship had already been played he has hit 11 goals—an average of one per game.

Only Benfica's Artur Jorge has a better figure (13) and having the advantage that he plays with better players around him he seems destined to retain the golden ball he won last year.

At the bottom of the table newly promoted Atletico Lisboa are struggling as expected and so too are Leixoes who were relegated at the end of season 1970-71 and only saved after the FA had decided to enlarge the First Division to include two extra teams.

Candidates

A year of grace seems to have done them little good. Amongst the relegation candidates and at the moment apparently firm favourites are Academica, the team of Coimbra University.

They have struggled this season for experienced players, usually fielding a team whose ages average around 20 years. After Rui Rodrigues followed Artur Jorge to Benfica last summer and with seven first team players currently on National Service, there seems little chance of escape for unlike the other teams they cannot seek reinforcements being limited to students and staff.

Apart from the Lisbon clubs it appears that many of the First Division teams are in serious financial difficulties and one, Boavista, were recently three months behind with the paying of their players salaries.

Visiting Lisbon, manager Joaquim Meirim apparently 'leaked' the story to the press and within a few hours of the unwelcome publicity the players had been paid.

CSKA HOLD CLEAR LEAD

THE first clash of the giants in Bulgaria this season brought together CSKA, who are once more riding high, and Levski-Spartak, who one might think are still adjusting themselves to the loss of Asparoukhov, tragically killed in a road accident during the summer.

Before the match the two clubs occupied their normal places—the top two—with CSKA holding a clear five point lead. Victory for the Army club would have virtually ended all interest in the championship there and then but to the surprise of almost everyone, Levski smothered their opponents by keeping a firm hold on midfield.

Breakaway

Doing this with numbers and combined skill they launched occasional breakaway attacks and from one of these centre forward Pavlov scored an opportunist goal that proved to be the only score of the day.

This was CSKA's first defeat of the season, though they have been finding goals difficult to come by in recent weeks with both last season's top scorers, Yakimov and Jekov, apparently unable to find the target.

The following week, Levski wound up the first half of the season with another 1—0 win while CSKA, in a bid to find goals, brought in centre ford Dremcisov, a young player on loan during national service from Cernomoretz Bourgas. Dremcisov it was who provided the goal that brought a 1—0 win—as did Tzetkov for Levski—and with CSKA holding a three point lead the race is still on.

Administrators

Tzetkov (and his goal-shooting companion Pavlov) are currently Levski's highest scorers, hitting ten and nine league goals respectively, while Jekov (CSKA) also has ten. Leading the field is Petki Petkov, the international centre forward from Beroe, up this autumn from Division II.

When soccer's administrators intervene to rule arbitrarily on things which should take a natural course things very often do not work out. This is being proved to be the case with the re-organisation that went on in the middle of the 1968-69 season. At that time the FA forced the two Sofia clubs, Slavia and Lokomotive, to amalgamate and promoted Division II club Akademik (the team of Sofia University).

Now Slavia and Lokomotive have gone their own ways—occupying 3rd and 5th place in the league table while Akademik are in bottom place and looking serious candidates for relegation.

Demendjiev of Trakia and Bulgaria.

PANATHINAIKOS TAKE HOLIDAY

AFTER visiting Nicosia to pick up two championship points against the 1971 Cypriot champions Olympiakos, Panathinaikos took three weeks off to concentrate on their World championship matches with Nacional of Uruguay. Though it would have been an empty title they won it, Panathinaikos ran the South Americans close, drawing 1-1 in Athens and losing 1-2 in Montevideo. All three goals for Nacional were scored by former Argentinian centre forward Luis Artime.

Last season Panathinaikos slipped behind their rivals in the championship race through resting prior to important European Cup matches and in the final analysis were unable to make up the leeway. This time the task will not be so difficult unless they lose one of their games in hand.

This season there are two 'strangers' contesting the top places in the league table—Aris slipping into top place on goals over Olympiakos with their Salonika neighbours PAOK in fourth place after AEK. Panathinaikos follow closely to confine the title race to clubs from Athens (including Piraeus) and Salonika. With only four points separating the top five clubs and the unique Greek system of two points for a draw (one for a defeat) it looks like being a close run thing.

In the FA Cup, all the leaders stepped comfortably into the last 16, only Panionios (Athens) having to struggle against lowly opposition in Third Division Ionikos while Division I Aigaleo gave Olympiakos a tough fight before they went out 0-2 after extra time.

The consolation point customarily awarded to losing teams as a device to keep everyone on the field to the end of normal play appears to have worked very well, in fact it has been some time since a match was abandoned but it happened recently in Nicosia where Olympiakos (Piraeus) met their Cypriot namesakes.

Vlahos and goalkeeper Ikonomopulos of Panathinaikos.

Concentrating on defence the Cypriots held out until the 86th minute when right back Siokos scored for the Greeks. The Cypriots argued with the referee, unable to control themselves for four minutes and lost a point when the referee abandoned the game.

Yugoslavia FA order clean-up

ZELJEZNICAR beat Partizan Belgrade 2-0 on the last day of the autumn campaign in Yugoslavia to retain top spot in the championship race in their 50th year. Though they have never yet taken the title, they have a very "strong" team (see below) but three clubs are pressing hard.

OFK Beograd, whose centre forward Santrac is the leading scorer (14 goals), actually topped the table for a few hours, playing their final game on Saturday and beating Celik 1-0. Now they are a point behind the leaders level with Red Star (still without Dzajic) and Vojvodina (of Novi Sad).

No doubt inspired by the English initiative, the Yugoslav FA has ordered a clean-up campaign by their referees. As in England this was a step that was long overdue and the effects have been quite startling, even if the spirit in which games are played has not yet improved too much.

In 17 week-ends, 37 players have been sent off, while no fewer than 320 cautions have been handed out. Only 165 players were involved which indicates at slightly more than two 'official actions' that tough play is at least containable but one or two teams stand out significantly in the figures.

Radnicki of Nis have had players sent off the field no fewer than 12 times in half a season while Zeljeznicar (the leaders) account for 20 of the bookings. Each time a player is cautioned there is a fine to be paid by his club which has so far yielded more than £1,500 for youth football which is the sole beneficiary!

After a great deal of conjecture Partizan have finally appointed a new manager—the former Partizan (and more recently Ajax centre half star) Velibor Vasovic. Quitting Ajax after helping them win the European Cup last season Vasovic, gets the job on the strength of his showing with Division II club Proleter FK.

His first act was to engage two new coaches—Milos Milutinovic (from Div II Dubocice) and Jovan Javanovic recently back from a spell coaching in Libya. This gives Partizan six coaches (including himself) on the payroll.

TURMOIL AN

AT the end of what for even a Uruguayan club must be considered an eventful year, Nacional have emerged as World Club Champions. For all the cynicism which has surrounded this ill-starred competition it still represents the winners of Europe's and South America's leading club competitions.

That Nacional were denied the right to play Ajax Amsterdam when the Dutch team pulled out of the contest was no fault of theirs—though Panathinaikos clearly provided less testing opposition than Ajax would have done.

In achieving this success Nacional have crowned three years of domestic triumph, too, in which they have been Uruguayan League champions in successive seasons.

Nacional were founded at the turn of the century, years after Penarol their eternal rivals. And down the years it has been Penarol who have usually had the edge, particularly in foreign tournaments. Last year was the first time that Nacional had won the South American Cup. Now they have taken the World Cup championship, too. They can now consider themselves No. 1 in Uruguay which to their supporters probably means more than being No. 1 in the world!

Threatened

And having clinched their third League title they appear to have had laid the Penarol bogy, for the present at any rate.

But their success is all the more remarkable because of the trouble which has beset them over the last twelve months. To start with they threatened not to take part in the championship at all because the Uruguayan F.A. had voted for an unpopular—to them—Peruvian to become President of the South American Confederation. Later the players, led by Luis Cubilla, went on strike because of the non-payment of wages and bonuses.

In this there was a definite link with the World Club Championship with Ajax. When the Dutch said they were not interested, a lucrative tie was eliminated and threatened the Nacional economy. Gates at home had slumped to as low as 7,000 and foreign games more than ever became a must for survival.

For years both Nacional and Penarol have not only dominated Uruguayan football but ruled it, too. They get away with virtually everything.

The South American Cup victory was achieved at the expense of the Argentinian club Estudiantes who had been the holders for three years. Critics said that the only reason that Nacional won was that Estudiantes had reached rock bottom themselves as a team and the Uruguayans were over the hill anyway.

Mujica of Nacional.

Influenced

Nonetheless, they did well to succeed especially since during the competition they lost the services of Atilio Ancheta their 23 year old international full back, the best defender in Uruguay and the club's best since the recently retired and legendary Emilio Alvarez holder of the club's record number of appearances. Ancheta, as well as being a gifted performer, is also a clean, strong defender —a rarity in the team. His transfer to Brazil probably influenced coach Washington Echemendi to pull back more players to bolster the team's rearguard. Certainly their previous 4-3-3 formation was switched to 4-4-2 and often only centre forward Luis Artime was left up.

But not that that really mattered for Artime has been a great asset to the club since he arrived from Palmeiras. He is the type of centre forward who can make the most of half chances and is willing to do his own foraging. Finishing is such an inherent weakness in Uruguayan football that it is perhaps significant that the two top scorers in the domestic championship last season were both Argentinians! Artime, of course, was top.

Artime started his career with Atlanta and joined River Plate. From there he went to Independiente until joining Palmeiras in Brazil. During this time he has kept scoring goals for clubs and also Argentina.

With Cubilla he is the most potent Nacional forward. Cubilla was undoubtedly Uruguay's star in the 1970 World Cup. He has had a long career and one which seems to have lasted longer than his 31 years. But when he played in the 1962 World Cup and then on Penarol's books he was a mere stripling. Now he has progressively got thicker round the middle and much slower as a result.

ND TRIUMPH

Focus on Nacional by Jack Rollin

Yet his skilful ball control and ability to shield it in the most desperate situations has never diminished.

In the middle of the field the outstanding player is Julio Montero Castillo whose name alone sounds as though he should be an ancient revolutionary leader. In fact at the slightest hint of trouble he is usually first on the spot if he has not been the cause of it himself of course.

For all that this fiercely combative player epitomises the Uruguayan spirit. He is a tall, elegant player; an artist with the ball but a ruthless tackler when he is not in possession.

The defence as a whole is good in the air but rather less efficient on the ground and noticeably slow. They make up for this by being rough and tough. Right back and skipper Luis Ubina (31) is typical of them, though his place has often gone to the moustacheod Blanco a younger player who has been capped by Uruguay recently.

Competition

The raw boned Masnik and Mujica make up the back four. Juan Mujica (28) is the better known and alas remembered for his rough handling of the Brazilian winger Jairzinho in the 1970 World Cup. But Mujica likes to attack, too, and scored a fine goal against Israel, in the same competition. This readiness to push up has its disadvantages though because of his reluctance to get back a failing which leads to the elementary gaps in the rearguard.

In goal Manga, the Brazilian has developed into a safe goalkeeper who uses his height and enormous reach to full advantage and the thunderbolt put past him by Eusebio in the 1966 World Cup appears not to have left any permanent scars.

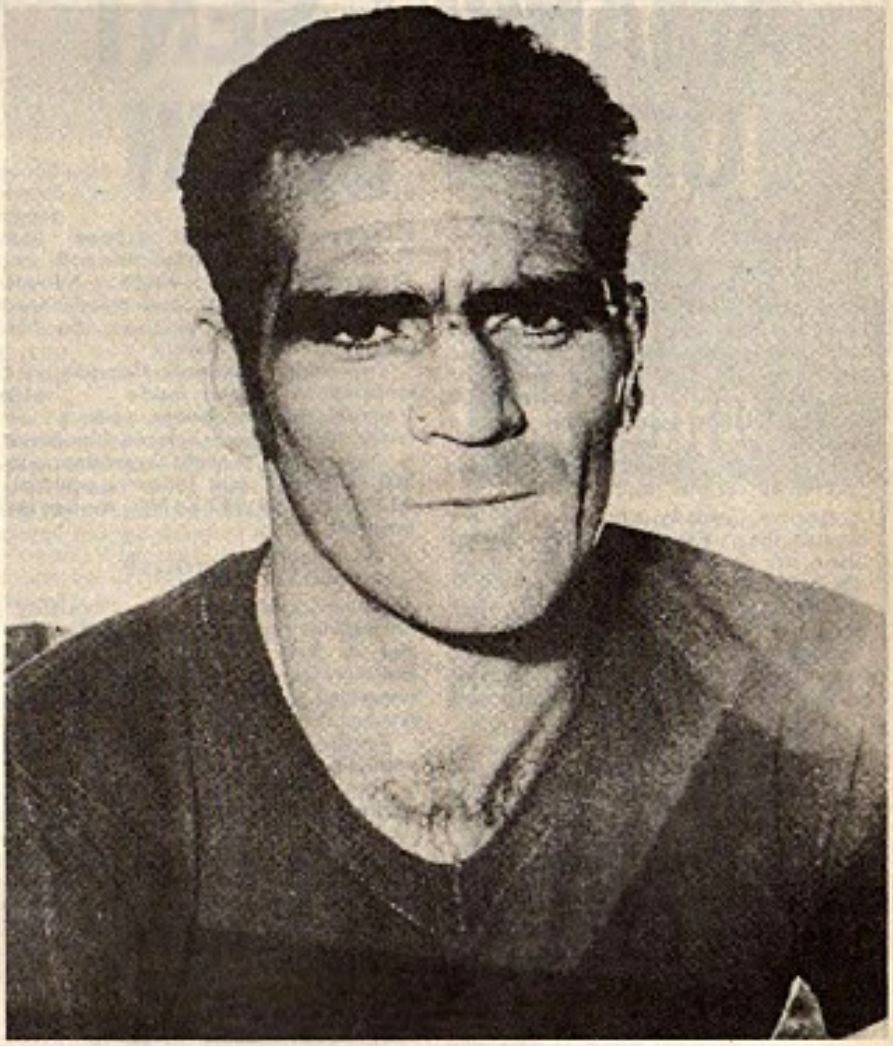
Apart from Montero Castillo, Nacional's midfield efforts are also in the hands of Ildo Maneiro (24) another Mexican World Cup duty and technically gifted player who suffers from the general Uruguayan malady of slowness. But no Uruguayan got as much odd pre-match publicity in Mexico as 27 year old Victor Esparrago. It was said that he would be used mainly as substitute for the reason that he did not have the stamina to play a full 90 minutes. Ironically he appeared throughout the first two games and was replaced after an hour in the third, came on in extra time in the quarter-final with Russia to score the winning goal and was used as a sub v. Brazil and West Germany, too. But now Esparrago is rated as one of Nacional's "go-go men"!

Nacional also tended to use their Chilean Ignacio Prieto as a linkman but found that while his ability was above reproach his fighting spirit fell short of his Uruguayan colleagues and he is now with a French club.

Unhappily the flesh is equally as strong—if not more—as the spirit with the Uruguayan and Julio Morales (27) was sent off after the incident in which the Greek player Tomaras broke a leg. Morales is quick and can find openings down the flanks and he can find the net, too.

Two other Nacional players who were in the original World Cup 40 for Mexico Ruben Bareno (28) and Angel Brunel (27) have vied with another Argentinian Mamelli for striking roles in support of Artime.

Artime is 33 now and while he shows no apparent sign of approaching the veteran stage, Cubilla surely is and where Nacional can find replacements is hard to know. Most of the other players are nearing the 30 mark, too, and this winning of the World Cup Championship could still be Nacional's swan-song for the present in the never-ending saga of their see-saw existence with Penarol.



Ubinas of Nacional.

NOSTALGIA IN MADRID

VASAS DE BUDAPEST were in town . . . to play Barcelona . . . and a local Magyar restaurant, owned by a former Hungarian international, became the centre of a tremendous Hungarian reunion. Everyone turned up . . . Sandor Kocsis, Zolton Czibor, Emil Osterreicher, Jenos Kalmar, Ladislov Kubala and others who must be nameless. It was a wow of a night . . . of memories, reliving past triumphs and disasters . . . nostalgic . . . prophetic.

The present Vasas manager, FERENC MACHOS, who played in the great Honved side of the 1950's, quietly talked about present-day football, even though we did lose the World Cup in Switzerland. But the massive exodus of our best players in 1956 (The Revolution) destroyed Hungary as a football power . . . and it has been very difficult indeed to rebuild," he said.

"The 'new' Hungary, after years of struggle is now taking shape . . . from the new generation there is emerging a standard of football that is better than for many years past. It cannot be compared in any way with what is known as the Honved era, although we are making progress and reaching the European championship quarter finals will help. However, over-confidence and too much optimism are premature. There is still a long way to go. It would be a brave man who dare forecast how soon Hungary will regain her lost glory.

"Our biggest weakness in recent years is lack of consistency—look how stupidly we played against Czechoslovakia in the World Cup play-off. We lack dedication, chiefly because of circumstances beyond our control . . . and most of all we lack organisation."

Twice winners

Cordial and affable FERENC VARFFY, Vasas president for eight years, was more enthusiastic about his own club, who had just made Barcelona look like amateurs. Vasas, three times champions, twice winners of the Cup Mitropa during Varffy's régime, 10,000 members and 16 sections providing competitive sport for nearly 3,000.

"In Hungary we're equal in status and prestige to Honved, Ferencvaros and Ujpest Dosza . . . we've consistently triumphed in foreign tournaments, yet have failed against clubs like Benfica, Inter-Milan and Real Madrid (twice) in European competitions."

Sensational

Everyone talked. Do you remember . . . can you recall . . .? But inevitably the conversation turned to the past, to "the game that shook the world", that sensational 6-3 Hungarian victory over England at Wembley in November 1953.

It was Puskas and Company who captured the headlines, but everyone at this reunion agreed—especially Kocsis and Czibor who played—that not enough credit has ever been given to the man who prepared that great Hungarian side . . . the 63-year-old Jenos Kalmar (now manager of Malaga).

ZOLTON CZIBOR, now a successful businessman and popular figure in Barcelona has no doubts. "His (Kalmar's) preparation for that match was magisterial," he said. "I remember

AMANCIO SENT OFF IN SPAIN

AMANCIO, Real Madrid's veteran forward and Spain's captain, is usually in the news for his goal-scoring feats. This time he's hit the headlines for being sent off . . . for the first time.

For years the 33-year-old Amancio has been the target of cloggers and killers in both club and international football. Rarely does he come out of a match without his legs looking like an operating theatre. Only his skill has prevented serious injury.

Against Granada, who since Aguirre Suarez, the ex-Estudiante "killer" joined them, are almost weekly involved in on-the-field battles, Amancio was provoked to the extreme. He retaliated when chopped knee high by Paraguayan Fernandez, and was sent off. Fernandez was given marching orders at the same time . . . but it needed a stretcher to get him to the dressing-room.

Sent off

Both players were suspended for four weeks. Amancio was fined by his club (as is customary with Real), put on half wages and lost £500 in bonuses won while he was out of the side.

Who started the battle? The Federation Delegate, and neutral observers had no doubts. AGUIRRE SUAREZ. "He should have been sent off in the first ten minutes," said the Delegate upon whose report the Disciplinary Committee suspended referee Jose Santana for two months, Amancio and Fernandez four weeks, Vicente (Granada) two weeks, and heavily fined Josieto, Granada's manager, for the behaviour of his players.

Two weeks previously Granada were involved in another battle . . . with Valencia. Aguirre Suarez again . . . a tackle that seriously injured Claramunt II. "Suarez has brought Argentine football to Spain," said Valencia manager, ALFREDO DI STEFANO, during the interval.

Misconduct

Suarez continued his "brutality" throughout the second half and at the end Di Stefano, raging, seething and explosive in his comments, had to be restrained until Suarez had safely reached his dressing-room.

Result: The Disciplinary Committee fined Di Stefano for misconduct.

That's what happens nearly every week. Suarez starts a brawl . . . then stands looking all unsullied and hard done by, protesting his innocence, while others take the blame and pain (from injuries). No wonder I laughed when during an interview he said: "I'm an honest and responsible player. I give no one trouble."

Just for the record. Aguirre Suarez has been booked and fined five times in his first 13 games for Granada.

Ladislao Mazurkiewicz, transferred from Penarol to Atletico Mineiro.

by NAMES make NEWS

NORMAN CUTLER

Ladislao moves from Penarol to Mineiro

how he studied our adversary and told us in incredible detail their technical weaknesses and antique strategy . . . it was a masterpiece of team direction. He made our task so easy, I'm sure we could have scored four more goals. To me Jenos Kalmar is the best of managers, different to all the rest . . . a maestro of football."

Terrific

"Our team played marvellously that day. Pancho (Puskas) was terrific, so were Hidegkuti and Bosnik. At the end all Wembley rose and saluted us. That English reception was unforgettable. The newspapers next day called us the best team in the history of football. Perhaps we were . . . that afternoon! But two things I'm sure about. Kalmar's tremendous contribution and that it was the greatest day in my career." Czibor also commented modestly on his tussle with England's right back . . . Alf Ramsey, now Sir Alfred Ramsey.

Listening to all this JENOS KALMAR was embarrassed and frequently tried to change the subject. All he said was: "I did my homework. But any manager would have triumphed with such a team."

The transfer of LADISLAO MAZURKIEWICZ, Peñarol's international 'keeper, to Atletico Mineiro of Bela Horizonte (Brazil), caused considerable surprise in Portugal and Holland.

Last August Sporting Lisbon approached officials of Peñarol in Seville when they played Benfica and lost by three Eusebio goals to nil. A fee of £100,000 was asked, to which Sporting gently said "No" . . . just as Ajax and Sao Paulo had only a few weeks before.

The 26-year-old Mazurkiewicz, of Polish-Spanish descent, was hardly disturbed. He'd heard the same story many times before. "There have been many offers from Argentine, Brazil, Holland, Belgium, but my directors always asked too much. What club is going to pay the millions of pesos they ask for my services?"

Appearances

Nor was he very anxious to leave Uruguay. "Why should I leave my homeland? I'm most popular . . . one of the best-paid players in the country . . . have gained many honours (more than 100 international appearances including two World Cups since his debut in 1965) and have sufficient money invested to look after the future. I have everything I need in Uruguay, so it's stupid to disturb the lives of my wife and son for no reason. Money is not everything." That was six months ago.

But the unexpected move—recently—to Mineiro, came as a shock to many, especially as the fee involved was only a third of the earlier demands, and a lot less than Sporting Lisbon and Ajax would have paid.

The puzzle wasn't difficult to solve. Falling gates! Deficits! Outstanding debts! Mineiro agreed to pay Peñarol £36,000 . . . and to liquidate the £3,500 that Peñarol owed Mazurkiewicz for back wages and bonuses.

It was a startling confirmation of the precarious financial situation that exists, even among the famous clubs, in Uruguayan football. (National de Montevideo *just had to play* that Inter-Continental Cup Final, so huge are their outstanding debts.)

Mazurkiewicz is not the first to leave Peñarol. Their manager, the famous Roque Maspoli, and his physical training partner, Alberto Langlada, left the club before the present season started because "they hadn't been paid a cent for six months or more". (They are now with Defensor de Lima.)

Carl Zeiss nose ahead

AFTER sharing the lead with FC Magdeburg for a fortnight, Carl Zeiss FC (of Jena) finally managed to nose one point ahead when their rivals drew 2-2 in Frankfurt with Vorwarts but immediately before the winter break they too dropped an away point against lowly Stahl Riesa and now have to be content with a share of the lead for the duration of the break.

Champions two years ago and concentrating last season on the European Cup, they were unable to prevent Dynamo Dresden taking the championship last season but still finished second. With almost an entire team of full internationals, Carl Zeiss are certainly the most experienced side in the top flight.

However, with goals being a very scarce commodity in the East German game, three players share the top marksman place with six each (from thirteen games): Abraham (FC Magdeburg) and the Dynamo Dresden pair—Kreische and Sachse.

Penalties

Kreische has recovered his form somewhat after a bad patch early on but significantly he is not being trusted with penalties just yet—Dorner being entrusted with a conversion late in the away clash with Carl Zeiss that ended 1-1.

Away wins are even more scarce than goals these days and if this is usual everywhere it is particularly true in the East German First Division. During the first half of the campaign only eight away wins were recorded and thus far, seven of the fourteen teams have still to win away from home!

In the relegation stakes, newly promoted Vorwarts Stralsund improved their chances somewhat by beating Zwickau 2-1 and then got another point with a goal-less draw in Halle against Chemie. But they are still at the bottom, one point behind FC Karl-Marxstadt (who came up with them) and Stahl Riesa who escaped the drop last term only by goals on the last day of the season.

FC BRUGES UNBEATEN

WITH one match remaining in the first half of the league programme in Belgium, leaders FC Bruges are still unbeaten and the championship appears to be a two-horse race between themselves and Standard-Liege, who are seeking their fourth consecutive success.

In the last two campaigns, FC Bruges have followed Standard home—last season by only one point—and this time they appear to have several advantages. Standard, it seems, have left themselves without a regular goalgetter and have shown themselves to be particularly injury-prone.

In addition, Standard still have an interest in the European Cup and this could be the clincher in Bruges' bid, if centre forward Raoul Lambert, who is known to have muscle trouble, can maintain match fitness and continue to get goals.

With Lambert unfit FC Bruges met their first defeat of the season against Second Division Tongres SK (1—0) in the FA Cup. Standard, meanwhile, were being almost as embarrassed by Third Division Lokeren whose player-manager is Joseph Jurion the former Anderlecht star.

At the same stage, 1971 Cup Finalists VV St. Trond could only draw after extra, extra time with Waregem and finally went out after penalty kicks decided the issue by 5—6.

With CS Bruges going down to the biggest score of the day (6—1 v Racing White) the Cup will certainly not be going to Bruges this year.

However, one wonders whether or not these early eliminations were sought after. For one thing the FA Cup is still not really viable in Belgium (commercially) and with the *Circle Sportif* occupying third place in the table and though fresh from Division II this season, taking 13 points from their last seven games, it would not really be surprising if they opted out.

Crossing FK are once more amongst the relegation candidates but this time they find themselves in strange company. SK Lierse, who surprisingly eliminated Leeds Utd from the UEFA Cup, are only two points above the bottom pair Beveren and Beerschot—the last named being the current holders of the FA Cup!

Peter Ressel of SK Lierse.

United, City, Leeds or who?

THE next soccer champions of England may not be identifiable until the mad Easter rush has been left far behind, and your bet on the winner could be just as good as mine.

We must always consider the possibility of a dark horse entering the race in the closing stages, and heed the gipsy's warning in the upturned teacups, but cold, clinical examination of present-day records firmly suggests the final contest being fought out between Leeds United, Derby County and the Manchester twins.

If this comes to pass, then once more the tremendous sporting conurbation which sprawls across the Mersey, Irwell, Irk and Medlock, and two cities and a dozen towns besides, may decide the ultimate destination of the coveted title. Just as it did a mere four years ago.

Remember? That was the period when Joe Mercer's Blues were brightest in a last-game triumph which slipped Manchester City sensationally into the honours list as the echoes of the final whistle faded on the wind over Newcastle's St. James's Park.

Injured vanity

Their Old Trafford rivals, who had been confidently counting on success, were pushed down into second place, though it must be pointed out that Busby's boys of that decade proceeded to win the European Cup, which we'll readily concede is no mean boost to anyone's injured vanity.

Now they'll tell you at Maine Road, if ever you care to call, these days, that there could easily be a repeat performance of that May drama of 1968, always supposing neither Leeds nor Derby dictate the order of finishing.

Just now, however, the 2-M sporting folk whose homes are bordered by the Pennines, the Snake Pass, the Cheshire Plain and the Ship Canal, are concerned only with Manchester's great double challenge, and losing plenty of sleep over it, too.

Narrowed

The fans have been slowly trimming their cuticles down to the bone while the odds have constantly changed, like the fortunes which raised Frank O'Farrell's brigade to the eminence with points to spare, then had them glancing over the left shoulder as the gap slowly narrowed.

I must admit it did appear as if the Old Trafford team was wrapping it up nicely after being released from some of the old restrictive styles, and handed new freedom and a host of new jobs in midfield.

Never was there a pleasanter autumn for the Reds. But the festive season was a shocker, making a joke of the title. For they picked up only three points from four successive games around the turn of the year.

Doubtfully sharing the points in first one match and then another, they returned home heavily defeated from a New Year's Day encounter at West Ham, and became a rocky prospect for backers with money to spare.

City, who had been languishing during the early manoeuvre for positions, moved up into a bargaining spot with Derby, but when the Rams slipped, they slipped, too, tossing away valuable points with the generosity of a millionaire, while all the time Leeds were coming up on the rails, so to speak.

Opinions

Mancunians, however, are today scorning the opinions of all those who visualise it as Don Revie's year. Or one likely to belong to Brian Clough. So far as they are concerned, it is going to be a private bloody battle in the end, and nobody else's business.

New boss O'Farrell, who may recruit the additional aid of the Blarney Stone, is crossing his fingers for top performances from George Best and the rest of a tremendous cast, while you-know-who is banking on Franny Lee and the others.

If penalties decide, my money may go on Lee Wun Pen which, being roughly translated, is a dressing-room phrase born after the homely product of the Lancashire mill town of Westhoughton had hit the usual spot-kick home, and the newspaper scoreline read—Manchester City 1 (Lee 1 pen.).

Bobby Charlton, captain of Manchester United, would obviously love to lead his team to another League Championship success this season. Charlton, of course, has already won championship medals with United but the Manchester club haven't won the League title since 1967. But in recent weeks Manchester United's lead at the head of the First Division has been drastically reduced by the chasing pack . . . headed by Manchester City and Leeds United, with Derby County strong contenders.

My slight doubt about backing an international star who equalled the record for seasonal penalties halfway through the winter may seem astonishing. But perhaps you've not noticed that Allison's team will soon be meeting Stoke City and Gordon Banks, who knows more than the odd thing or two about saving 12-yarders. And that match is to be played on APRIL 1.

The final point in this quick study of title-chasing neighbours spotlights another extremely interesting facet of the struggle at the top. It's the fact that they still have to meet at United's headquarters, and no one needs reminding that victory in that particular conflict will be worth four points.

The fixture list dates it for Saturday, February 26, the day when the last 16 cup teams will be disputing places on the Wembley trail. So it may have to be postponed to a later date nearer the end of the season—a "derby" which might settle the championship. What a prospect!

SMALL FAIL TO

WITH the New Year getting into its stride we'll not dwell on the summit meetings, on the falling attendances or the financial problems. We'll consider, instead, the quite remarkable standard of play being produced in a League Championship programme that has a lot going for it. Indeed, if the average fan hasn't been satisfied with this season's fare, by and large, then he doesn't know much about the game.

For, in spite of all the problems (I'm sorry I just had to make a brief, passing reference, forgive me), the standard of football has been high, the drama much in evidence and the entertainment value encouraging.

As I write several teams have indicated their ability to be the ultimate Champions and a couple more have been lurking quietly in the shadows ready to strike when the others immediately above have sorted themselves out. And, just to round off the overall picture, even the teams at the bottom of the table—particularly those perpetual stragglers Cliftonville—are showing signs that results and points are not always a clear indication of ability.

The game here has many critics, but they are mostly folk who haven't bothered to get off their rear ends and actually watch a game in months. Their carping has been less justified this season than in recent years, for I can honestly say that I've not watched a really poor game this term; I've seen some games that were below par but none that were really forgettable.

And football, by its very nature, can only rise to the occasion when it's being watched by plenty of people. Take, for example, the Christmas Day game at Seaview between a vastly improved Crusaders and the then League leaders Linfield. The attendance was disappointing and subsequently the atmosphere never allowed for a classic encounter.

Yet if, say, Manchester United and Arsenal had played before the same crowd I doubt if the game itself would have been more interesting. And, the other side of the coin, if this game had been staged before 50,000 fans it would have obviously given more enjoyment. What I'm saying is that, in short, the crowd is everything.

Linfield are a curious side this year. Under manager Jimmy Hill, who is playing more these days now that his leg injury has cleared up, they still contain some of the best players in the League and yet remain a team to be taken.

The recent signing of young Paul Malone from Glenavon to act as the much-needed striker and the addition of John Rowland from Derry City to act the role of the traditional winger still has to prove the point, for the major problem hanging over the Blues' title hopes remains the inability to get the goals that count. Against Crusaders (who won 2-1) they had enough opportunities to take both points with ease and in the end went home without any.

Determination

Linfield will, I fancy, find the second half of the League programme tough going for their old cross-city rivals Glentoran have suddenly found their feet. Over Christmas they rattled six past Distillery and five past Glenavon and didn't let any in themselves to take over the top spot . . . and the way they have been playing recently underlines their determination to stay there till it's all over.

Manager Alex McCrae, one of the quiet men of Irish League football, is a canny Scot whose approach to the game has always been methodical and far from the glaring headlines. And now he finds himself with a team of outstanding ability and a new spirit.

And, ironically, one of the men leading in the revival is Jim "Bingo" Weatherup . . . who was almost given a free transfer a couple of weeks back. Jim is a remarkable character, for though by no means a veteran in years he's certainly that in experience.

Shine through

It was back in the '50s that Jim first broke into football with the Glens. He moved to Crusaders and played for them for almost ten years before, in a shock move, for many considered him to be nearing the end of the road, returning to the Oval. And once re-established in the East End he began, if anything, to play even better.

There is much to back a theory that the Glens will set a hot pace for the title . . . not least the positive galaxy of star players; goalkeeper Albert Finlay, who returned after staging a one-man strike to don once again the tag of the best 'keeper in the business; Tommy Morrow, who remains the most lethal of forwards on his day; Johnny Jamison, the forward with the class that doesn't, alas, always shine through. One could list, indeed, the entire first team and still have a couple of promising reserves to fall back on. Yes, if I was to pick a winner at this stage it would probably be Glentoran.

Swiss changes

FIVE Swiss First Division clubs have already changed their managers this season: Biel replaced Oswald with Skiba; the German star Otto Luttrop became Lugano's player-manager after the departure of Alber Sing; Cup holders Servette lost Jean Snella, who returned to France, and engaged Gillett; Sion parted with Meylan having obtained the services of the Yugoslav Blazevic. The biggest round-about was staged by bottom-of-the-table Lucerne who saw off Meyer, than Brun, Vogel and Milder—before settling for . . . Albert Sing, the discard from Lugano! In addition, the Second Division club Fribourg released Kominek to accommodate Raetzo.

The fine performances of the Swiss national teams have prompted several clubs to chase after the national coach Louis Maurer. Even the fact that he is 67 years old doesn't seem to put them off. Servette appear to have the best chance, especially as they hail from the French-speaking part of the country and Maurer, despite his German-sounding name, is of French extraction.

His contract with the SFV has until July to run, but Servette do not want to wait that long. The club have received 26 written applications for the post voluntarily vacated by Jean Snella and they appear to be pressuring Maurer into an immediate decision. Otherwise they may plump for Jürgen Sundermann, who could be used as player-coach or Law Mantula—both in fact have played for Servette and know the local conditions.

The eighth-finals of the Cup brought no direct surprises except perhaps the crushing 5-0 wiff by St. Gallen over Lugano. Grasshoppers did well to triumph 2-1 at Lausanne and entered the quarter-finals for the 35th time, which must be something of a record! The pairings are as follows: Grasshoppers v. Basel; Biel v. St. Gallen; Zürich v. Fribourg and Servette v. Young Boys.

ATTENDANCES INSPIRE

But there's always Coleraine. A good start, a bad patch and a return to the good: that's been their story this term. Manager Bertie Peacock would dearly love to win the title, for the Bannsiders have never collected that particular honour (though during his fantastic reign at the Showgrounds they have picked up almost everything else).

In recent weeks, before they began to stage a comeback, there was much talk of disenchantment among the players. One in particular, the goal-grabbing Des Dickson, even wanted away. Happily all seems to have been resolved, and Coleraine fans are sitting back awaiting the arrival of the Gibson Cup (for the League winners). Though the sad thing is that recent performances—so near and yet so far—by the Bannsiders have made fans discontented with the inconsistencies and reluctant to watch regularly.

Celebration

Portadown, after a disaster of a season last time out, have hit the right note under Gibby McKenzie. Trevor Anderson continues to feature in the transfer news, the forwards are usually on target and mid-Ulster fans, so long starved of success, look hopefully to the end of the battle, when they confidently predict a Portadown celebration.

They are an excellent side, but I cannot honestly see them quite the champions they do themselves. There is not, as yet, enough style about the Shamrock Park club to carry them through.

Though near-neighbours Glenavon continue to fluctuate. There are several promising youngsters in the squad, but they need more time to make the vital breakthrough. Youth can do a lot, but in football it's experience that counts.

The others, jockeying for position and always capable of handing out the shocks, wait. Crusaders, with several young stars gaining valuable experience with each passing game, rely too much on the ability of Tom Finney (now there's a name for you) to get the goals, and could do with an additional forward to relieve the load. Happily manager Billy Johnston has sorted out what was the most pathetic defence in the game, and now it's one of the best. A curious game is football.

Ballymena United, after such a great run which saw them take the City Cup and a semi-final tie in the Texaco Cup, have slipped out of gear. Though Jim Martin remains the most dangerous scorer of the season. If only player-manager Arthur Stewart could find the right road again United have the strength to pick up. I doubt, though, that they hit the skids at the wrong time and have left any revival plans a little late.

The County Down clubs, Ards and Bangor, appear to be travelling in opposite directions. Ards upwards and Bangor downwards. Though in fairness to Alf McMichael and his Seasiders it should be noted that recently, when it mattered most, he had no less than five regulars out of action.

Workmanlike

Billy Humphries, who is turning his attention more and more to a youth policy for the future, presides over a workmanlike Ards side which probably deserve the "dark horse" tag more than any other team. The return of prolific scorer Billy McAvoy, after a lengthy injury lay-off, is back to his best form and the rest of the team is playing the sort of football that impresses.

Distillery, my team of last season and the team I held out so much hope for this year, are a disappointment. Jimmy McAlinden hopes to add to his pool but finds the right man simply isn't available. The loss to Nottingham Forest of Martin O'Neill was a crippling one, more crippling than at first feared.

They and Derry City are in the sad position of having to act the role of lodgers with Crusaders and Coleraine since their own grounds fell victim to the civil unrest, so it's not really surprising that they haven't been at their best.

Scramble

Cliftonville may be stuck in their regular basement spot but coach Kevin McGarry isn't too unhappy: "This season we have teed ourselves up for more wins than ever before, only to throw away the points. Recently we lead Distillery 3-0 and had to scramble for a point, and against Derry were clearly the better side and again had to settle for a point. I think the lads have a mental block every time they take the lead; like they think 'we shouldn't be in this position', and lose control. It's all a matter of confidence."

So, you see, we may have lots of you know what but the game's still being played, and rather well I reckon. And there's more where that came from!

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PLAYERS WIN XMAS APPEAL

SPAIN reached the season's halfway stage . . . preceded by a long period of confusion and uncertainty caused by demands from the players that football be suspended over Christmas. They won their case and all First and Second Division matches were cancelled.

A Law of Silence was imposed on everyone from the beginning and no hint has leaked out as to what weapon the players used to force the Clubs and Federation—against their wills—to agree to the unprecedented demands. *(Even one's best friends wouldn't talk.)*

Led by lawyer-footballer Isacio Calleja, captain of Atletico Madrid and Real Madrid's captain, Ignacio Zoco, players petitioned the Federation for the cancellation of all matches scheduled for December 26. Their grounds were "the human rights of a player to spend the principal religious and family festival of the year with his wife, children and parents" . . . and not concentrated in hotels or travelling on planes, trains or long-distance coaches.

The Federation President, D. Perez Paya, brusquely rejected the legally submitted petition saying the fixture list was too congested *(there were in fact two vacant dates)* . . . the demands were unjust and discriminatory . . . and in any case it was a Club-level decision and there was no time to call the Clubs together. *(How come? The Federation IS the Clubs.)*

The next move was an appeal to the Minister of Sport, D. Juan Gich, who personally received Calleja and Zoco, together with Real Madrid players Amancio and Grosso. He sympathised with their point of view, but not wishing to become directly or officially involved, transferred the responsibility to the Clubs on the grounds that the fixture list was drawn up by the Clubs at the Summer Assembly.

This forced President Perez Paya's reluctant hand . . . he just had to submit, and call a hurried meeting of Club representatives of all three divisions. This took place only six days before the Clubs playing away on December 26 left on their journeys, which were made more difficult by the normal suspension of many plane and train schedules at Christmas-time.

After three hours of discussion the Federation (Clubs) announced that "they happily acceded to the players' initiative which is based on the human aspect and legitimate family desires". Words . . . but in plain English the Clubs agreed to transfer First and Second Division fixtures for December 26 to another date . . . and the players unexpectedly won their sensational demands. (The Third Division had to play . . . changing dates was too difficult. Pillle!)

Jose Iribar, goalkeeper of Atletico Bilbao.

Appointed

Immediately the decision was announced D. Francisco Marcet, the Federation appointed figurehead representative of the players on the Federation Executive, resigned. He had backed President Perez Paya's original refusal on the grounds that professional football is an entertainment *(He must be kidding.)* and players under contract to Clubs have to do a job (of entertaining) and have an obligation to club and public who are entitled to holiday football. And . . . cancellation of the programme would involve the clubs in grievous financial losses. *(Player's representative?)*

When the "battle" was over, lawyer-player Calleja, on behalf of the players, simply thanked the Clubs for their "consideration". No more. The Law of Silence remained intact—and still does—posing several intriguing questions.

Who advised the Clubs (originally against the players) to give way? *(The Minister of Sport?)*

News from Spain by NORMAN CUTLER

How were the Clubs manoeuvred into making a decision that lost them thousands of pounds in gate-money? *(Sport in general lost £564,000 because of the cancelled Pools.)*

What "threat" did the players use? *(Strikes comes under criminal law in Spain.)*

Which Clubs backed the players' demands? *(Real Madrid did, they can afford the loss, but who else?)*

More important . . . How will this success affect the bigger Club-Players issues? The abolition of the right of retention clause. The right of a professional footballer to have a second job. The right to choose his club.

The Winter Champions? Real Madrid . . . which means they have an even chance of winning the 1971-72 League Championship title.

Since 1950-71—that's 21 seasons—the team on top at the halfway stage (Winter Champions) has won the title on 13 occasions and were six times runners-up. Only twice has the significant trend failed . . . in 1952-53 when top-of-the-table Espanol finished fifth and in 1967-68 when Atletico Madrid slipped to sixth place.

Real Madrid at last seemed to have shaken off their injury "jinx". Unlike the past two seasons the League side has been amazingly free of injuries. Pirri was out for the first six weeks, injured in a summer tournament, and Amancio was suspended for four games. Otherwise Real, except for an odd occasion, have fielded an unchanged side. They have been leaders since the second match of the season.

Their consistency (only one defeat, at Las Palmas) and their confident, entertaining and uncomplicated old-time football has brought widespread admiration, even from the notoriously destructive Madrid Press. No one seems to worry about the goal-rate, *1.55 goals per match, which believe it or not is the highest in the First Division.* They have proved what President Santiago Bernabeu and Manager Miguel Munoz have been saying for two years . . . "There's nothing wrong with Real Madrid that time and patience won't put right."

Second, one point behind, are last year's Champions . . . Valencia. Strangely they have the same number of points (21) and occupy the same position as this time last season. They then went on to win the title by uncanny consistency.

As always "The Ches" are defence minded, with Sol the key figure, but even with the attack reinforced by the brilliant centre-forward Quino and the brainy inside-right Lico, they still make hard work of every match. They're laborious, ordinary. But you can't rule them out, however unimpressive they appear. Their record belies outward appearance.

Most noticeable is the aura of tension that hovers over the side. Di Stefano is so anxious to retain the title his anxiety seems to have infiltrated into the side. No team panics so much as Valencia when a goal down.

Third . . . Atletico Madrid. They started well enough but after two matches were crippled by injuries to six first-team players and slumped down the table. Impatiently they sacked Manager Marcel Domingo and brought in Labour Camp specialist, Max Merkel.

Up the table went Atletico . . . nine points out of 12. Merkel? Yes and no. He boosted morale and *flogged* them out of their depression. But it was a million-to one on bet that their recuperation dated from the recovery of stars like Luis, Calleja, Garate, Adelado, Melo and Ovejero. They are a team to watch . . . and could well justify Merkel's weekly tirade "All teams I train win titles."

Fourth . . . Seville. Their transformation under Dan Georgiadis has been amazing . . . and its been done without the blare of publicity foreign managers invariably seek. Thir calm confidence, eagerness and accent on attack have made them one of the country's most entertaining sides. They are a team without a star, even Lora, Spain's international idol, loses his identity and merges into the team.

Traditional

But alas no manager has yet been able to cure Seville's traditional illness . . . defence lapses. Brilliant, superb, rocklike for three or four games. Then whum . . . four goals . . . and a defence that looks like a sieve. It's nothing new, it's been going on now for 20 years. If Georgiadis can only find the cure, Seville will make it mighty tough at the top for Real Madrid.

Las Palmas are back among the leaders after two bad seasons, but are still handicapped by fickle, discontented fans. Even their historic first-ever victory over Real failed to silence the critics.

Pierre Sinibaldi took over a demoralised side with a non-existent forward line. He introduced new coaching methods; turned inside-left German into a successful striker centre-forward; bought Real Madrid's veteran 'keeper, Betancourt, and has come up with a promising, workmanlike side that is most difficult to beat.

The shock team of the season is Barcelona. Sensational last season (Cup Winners and League runners-up) . . . this year a disillusioned, disorganised disaster.

They have six of the most expensive players in the country, 14 internationals (five in the current squad), and are a team with all talents. Yet until the 13th game were one point from the bottom and even now are only three points from the relegation positions.

The cause? The Board's choice of successor to Vic Buckingham (Barcelona's most successful manager for 11 years) . . . Rinus Michels, former Ajax manager. The Dutch manager has wrecked morale, team spirit, confidence and ability by plugging "Wonderful, Wonderful Ajax" so much that directors, players (in particular), Press and public are sick and tired of the very name Ajax. One newspaper just will not use the word Ajax in its columns.

Agustin Guisasola, Atletico Bilbao's Spanish Under 23 International.

Unbelievably *Michels instructed outside-right Carlos Rexach to play like Johann Cruyff! Other players were told to adopt the methods and follow the style of Van Dijk, Keizer and Rijnders.* There was never a settled team, there were changes in every one of the first 12 matches simply because players lost their form and natural ability through trying to copy the "Dutch Wonders" of Rinus Michels. Rexach, Spain's leading scorer last season, found the net for the first time in the 14th game and not surprisingly lost his international place. More than one player asked for a transfer.

Demanded

It went on until President Montal eventually lost his habitual calm and demanded of Michels . . . results or else. *(In any other club the axe would have fallen weeks before.)* By a superhuman effort Barcelona drew in Madrid . . . and since then there has been some improvement. But it's pathetic to see Buckingham's almost *great* side *(the very same players)* in such a shambles. I hope they soon recover, for the sake of Spanish football.

Atletico Bilbao are one point from relegation! They are a side dogged by injuries, demoralised by internal and Press intrigue, which forced Ronnie Allen out, and show little signs of recovery, in spite of a 5-0 defeat of Cordoba. Bilbao will be lucky if they escape relegation.

At the bottom are Betis, Coruna and Cordoba . . . the three teams promoted this season from the Second Division.

West German newsletter from ARTHUR ROTMIL

Higher gates despite scandals

DESPITE the various corruption scandals, some of which are still being investigated, the German Bundesliga is actually enjoying an increase in attendance figures! In the first half of the championship term which closed down for a few weeks' break in mid-December, total gates for the 156 matches had shown a rise of 172,000 as compared with the corresponding period of last season. The average per match is up to 21,089—a healthy figure by any standards. Eight clubs report spectator gains and as many have registered a loss, whilst the remaining two are newcomers Bochum and Düsseldorf.

This is all the more surprising since the best supported club Hertha Berlin, who have been heavily implicated in the bribery affair, are showing a dramatic loss in attendances. Hertha's gates have, in fact, slumped on average by 22,367 per game (!)—which must be some sort of a record in loss of popularity. What is even more astonishing is that Hertha still boast the highest average in the League with 31,352 fans per match!

Home average

The most favoured team were not the champions Borussia Mönchen-Gladbach nor the "Half-time" leaders Schalke, but Bayern Munich. In eight out of the nine grounds they visited, Bayern drew record crowds. Nearly 40,000 fans turned up for each of their visits, though their home average was fourth best with 27,812 per match. The League's highest attendances were as follows: Hertha v. Bayern, 66,696; Eintracht Frankfurt v. Bayern, 66.033; Hamburger SV v. Bayern, 59,592; and Hertha v. Cologne, 56,517. At the other end of the scale, 20 games drew less than 10,000 fans each.

But the biggest talking point in Germany during recent weeks had nothing to do with gates or even the sickening bribery scandal. No other event at club level has ever created such a storm here as the tragic circumstances of champions Borussia Mönchen-Gladbach's elimination from the European Cup by Inter-Milan—or as they say in Germany, by UEFA! It will be recalled that Borussia won the home leg by 7-1, but because the Italian centre forward Boninsegna was hit by a can thrown by an (still) unknown spectator, the European Union annulled the result of this game and ordered it to be replayed first in neutral country and then, after an appeal, on a German ground at least 100 km (62 miles) outside Mönchen-Gladbach. Borussia lost the away leg 2-4 in Milan and try as they would they only managed a goalless draw in the "play-off" in Berlin, after missing an early penalty (18 min.).

The game was rough, the atmosphere charged with whipped up emotions, whilst poor Ludwig Müller broke his leg two minutes from the end in a tackle on . . . Boninsegna. This name will be remembered in Germany for a long, long time! And so will the severe verdict of UEFA's disciplinary committee, or the tolerant refereeing by England's Jack Taylor in Berlin.

The reaction of the German fans was bitter, to say the least, and Inter's tough and often brutal tactics didn't help matters either. Three Italians were booked—a scant punishment for the diabolical fouling that went on mainly behind the back of a reputedly experienced ref. The match was a poor advertisement for European Cup football and it was a pity that it was seen live on TV in 16 countries, England being the only major soccer land which ignored this decider.

Among the more caustic comments from the enraged public, reproduced by Germany's leading magazine "Kicker-Sport", were the accusations that referee Taylor was bribed, that he was Inter's 12th man, and that he permitted every conceivable act of misconduct by the Italians. Inter were depicted as butchers and animals, while several readers "vowed that they will never again take their holidays in Italy!" Once again it was obvious that the same match, the same tactics, can be viewed in accordance with one's sympathies. Such—unfortunately very common—attitudes have little to do with fairness or an objective assessment. Thus the 0-0 in Berlin was for the Germans "a monument to a cynical chain of Italian brutalities"—whilst the Italian press hailed Inter's tactics "a triumph of intelligence"!

In the *Bundesliga* the young and ambitious Schalke team held a three-point lead over Bayern at the break and hope to clinch the National League title for the first time. But Schalke are rich in traditions having won the country's championship no fewer than seven times! Their last success dates back to 1958. Schalke gained this clear lead by defeating their nearest challengers Bayern 1-0 at home.

The Bavarians had more of the game but were ultimately foiled by Schalke's brilliant 'keeper Norbert Nigbur whose display overshadowed even his famous opposite number and Germany's No. 1 custodian Sepp Maier. A capacity crowd of 40,000 turned up at Gelsenkirchen, whilst another 60,000 people who had applied for tickets were unlucky!

The newly-tried system of deciding Cup ties on a home and away basis—like in European competitions—is already under fire from most quarters. Not surprisingly, since it virtually eliminates not only the element of the unexpected results, the "giant-killing" acts, but almost guarantees progress for the Bundesliga clubs. The fans have not responded to the new formula either. Attendances at the 16 ties, in which the élite all had to travel, ranged from 4,000 (Tasmania Berlin v. VfL Bochum) to 25,000 (Wuppertal SV v. Kaiserslautern) for a modest average of 10,800 fans per match.

The Regional-Liga clubs put up heroic fights but at the final count only one managed to survive the round: The Cup winner of 1969, now leader of the South-League and responsible for the bribery revelations*—Kickers Offenbach, who eliminated Borussia Dortmund! Gates averaged only 7,500. . . .

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The Dutch scene.....by JOHN SPARROW

NEW BOSS FOR HOLLAND?

Action from the Dutch game between Feyenoord and Groningen . . . won 4–1 by Feyenoord.

A QUESTION mark hangs over the future of Frantisek Fadrhonc, Dutch national team boss of two years. Is he to take Holland into the World Cup or be axed, scapegoat for the Dutch failure in the European Championship?

While Fadrhonc has pleaded for an early verdict, the Koninklijke Nederlandse Voetbalbond has been dilly dallying over his future and the affair—public since early December—has dragged on and on. The Dutch say they warrant a place in the World Cup finals and they want the right man to get them there.

Fadrhonc's contract runs out in July and according to one official it would not normally be reconsidered until March. "But with all the publicity things are going a bit faster and besides we want to comply with his wishes for a decision as soon as possible," he said. And February, considers the KNVB, is as soon as possible.

Assurance

Bondscoach Fadrhonc asked for a pre-Christmas decision on his contract months before and allegedly got such an assurance. On December 11 a KNVB meeting in Zeist was due to discuss the Fadrhonc question but the matter was put off the agenda.

Henk Borgwal, General Secretary of the KNVB, told WORLD SOCCER: "I very much regret this all. My personal opinion is that Fadrhonc is one of the best coaches we've ever had." One of the important things he had succeeded in doing, he said, was getting the co-operation of the clubs.

"Our national players are very fond of him too," Borgwal added. "They love him."

He went on: "We are thinking our team belongs with the best in Europe. After all in Ajax and Feyenoord we have the two top teams of Europe. So we think we have to go to the World Cup finals.

"Preparations are being made now and the question arises: Is Fadrhonc the best we have? The European Championships were a disappointment and Fadrhonc's opponents blamed the failure on him."

Fadrhonc has said he would be prepared to help his successor settle in, if a successor there is. (Borgwal's judgement is that he will stay.)

Favourites

The bondscoach has also commented, "If they think somebody is going to fall out of heaven to make Holland World Champions they are making a big mistake. It's not that easy. I don't want to say I'm the best man for the job but what is built up now is going to be broken down by these carryings on."

When the story broke early in December, some of the Dutch press tipped Rinus Michels of Barcelona as a front runner for the job. But then they tipped the ex-Ajax trainer for PSV when Kurt Linder looked insecure. Borgwal dismisses it as mere Press talk.

Unbeaten Ajax were firm New Year favourites for the Dutch title when champions Feyenoord suffered a shock defeat at the hands of PSV. Again PSV—the big disappointment of 1971-72—came from their lowly league position to cause a stir; just as they did by disposing of Real Madrid in the UEFA Cup.

Two second half goals by Johan Devrindt brought Feyenoord their third defeat of the season and allowed Ajax to stretch the gap at the top of the Premier Division to four points with 19 games gone.

Feyenoord were without midfield star Willem van Hanegem for the PSV game. (The KNVB had suspended him for three games and fined him 250 guilders for kicking Haarlem's Gerrie de Goede in the back as he lay on the ground in a friendly.)

The Rotterdammers' trainer, Ernst Happel, said van Hanegem's absence played an important role in the defeat, while PSV's Kurt Linder commented: "The psychological effect of van Hanegem not being there automatically makes one think the game is not going to be so tough."

The after match comment from Feyenoord manager Guus Brox, was: "Of course we have a heavy task in front of us to make up this four point deficit. But it's not the end of the title fight. Ajax will lose some points yet and we have yet to get them at home."

Unbeaten

Sparta were third, four points behind Feyenoord, then FC Twente and FC Den Haag. A vastly different story from last season when ADO (FC Den Haag) led at the halfway point.

Twente, who broke Feyenoord's long unbeaten home record earlier this season, gave Ajax a tough time in Amsterdam. Ajax won 1-0 in a game where tempers flared. Afterwards Ajax trainer Kovacs said, "We had a much easier time against Feyenoord."

Haarlem are battling their way back towards the Premier Division. Relegated with AZ'67 last season, Haarlem stood four points clear at the top of the First Division after 22 games. Heerenveen were second with a game in hand.

UNPRETENTIOU DAVE STOPS THE LAUGHS

ONCE upon a time Chelsea were regarded as the team that didn't win anything except laughs. These days they are one of the leading trophy collectors—and after their first FA Cup win in 1970, followed by the European Cup Winners Cup last year, there is still room on the Stamford Bridge sideboard for another pot or two. A place in the League Cup Final gives them chance of another, and in the light of their form of recent months, one couldn't rule them out of anything. The quiet guidance of Dave Sexton, a man of many clubs both as a player and later as an outstanding coach, has much to do with this state of affairs. He is so much the architect of the modern, streamlined and obviously talented Chelsea. After a knee injury had finished his playing career, Sexton was brought to Stamford Bridge as one of Tommy Docherty's backroom boys; although he was away for a while, his return as manager meant that he was picking up much of the work he had started years before.

Yet, despite all the razzmatazz and mass exposure which surrounds a major award-winning First Division club such as his, Sexton remains a quiet, unpretentious man. He skilfully manages to avoid much of the glare of publicity into which many others in a similar position readily throw themselves. "I don't want to be a man who keeps coming up with an instant opinion," he says. "I like time to think things over."

For three hours each working day, Dave has time to think as he commutes to and from his home in Hove. He moved there in 1957 after being transferred from Orient, and, as the then Brighton boss Bill Lane told him, liked the place so much that he has lived in Sussex by the sea ever since.

"You can be detached; it gives one a breathing space which is important," he says. It also enables him to devote time to his wife and family, Anne (13), David (12), Michael (6) and Chris (1). This man is fully immersed in his job, but he doesn't propose to adopt the monastic existence which some other managers favour, putting football in front of everything else.

Fascinated

"I like to go at my own pace," he smiles. "I can last longer that way." But he is excited and fascinated by the different ways in which managers can produce the best from players. The flamboyant, volcanic managers intrigue him. But it is significant that he describes West Ham's Ron Greenwood as "the man who has done most for English football over the last ten years, simply by sticking to his beliefs."

It is never easy to remain faithful to the precept of football first and last if the results are not coming and the climate of opinion is unsympathetic. Sexton places great emphasis upon the way in which the game is played—baubles like the various cups or titles are, he says, the crowning of an already considerable achievement in getting a team to play it as you want.

Nevertheless, the public, directors and the rest are mightily impressed by tangible rather than aesthetic success. Chelsea have had their share and but for a disappointing start to this season, must have been fancied for the league. Their form since October has been outstanding.

Sexton isn't bothered by critics who suggest that his squad is fine for cup competitions but lacks the depth to achieve the ultimate achievement of winning the First Division. He has carefully pieced together a playing staff which must be the envy of other managers—using many of the players who have been at Stamford Bridge for years, and not being afraid to splash big money in the transfer market.

Dedication

The results speak for themselves, not least away from Stamford Bridge. Consistent results in away matches in recent years, he insists, underline the dedication of the players. The old chestnut about lack of atmosphere and the remoteness of the crowd at home games has almost been forgotten, too. "We don't need a crutch to prop us up," he declares proudly. "And attendances have improved, so one cannot complain about our supporters."

There is no doubt that Chelsea have grown up in the last year or two. Fans remember big wins or emotional occasions. Dave Sexton thinks with particular pride of the match a couple of years ago when injuries decimated the side; Chelsea finished with nine men and still made a draw. He believes the half-dozen matches against the ultimate professionals of Leeds in one season—two league fixtures, two League Cup meetings and then those two FA Cup Final clashes—taught them plenty.

Even a mid-season friendly against Santos—Pele and all—in Jamaica a year ago rates as another important stepping stone in the maturing of the side. "That taught us so much, especially players like David Webb and John Dempsey, who got tremendous benefit from coming up against players of that calibre."

Experience

Sexton has always been hungry to learn and profit from experience against different opposition. Like so many others, his soccer thinking underwent a radical change after Hungary had shown England what it was all about in 1953. He was at West Ham when crack Continental teams like FK Austria, Wacker, Stuttgart and AC Milan were brought to Upton Park for pioneer floodlight friendlies.

He was reluctantly involved in coaching at 21, when Luton colleagues Sid Owen, Wally Shanks and Charlie Watkins persuaded him to go on a course. But by 1958 he was so full of enthusiasm to learn more about the game that he ventured to Sweden for the World Cup and in company of a couple of other players—including Pat Welton, later another much respected coach—drank in the pleasurable lessons to be learned from watching the greats perform.

He learned plenty, he admits, from several of the managers under whom he served as a sharp-shooting centre-forward in the '50s—the dedicated Ted Fenton, the inspiring Alec Stock, then Billy Lane, who gave him more personal responsibility. But the one who impressed and influenced him even more was George Smith, who took him to Crystal Palace.

"Maybe it was only Fourth Division," recalls Sexton, "but this was the most practical-minded manager I had come across. He had this knack of involving players, making you aware that he

US

On the Bosses
No 6

DAVE SEXTON

by Martin Rogers

expected certain things of you. And he was a great planner."

Planning, tactics and theory were beginning to impress and influence Sexton more than ever. And his contact with coaching courses, and with Walter Winterbottom, also meant a lot. When injury intervened, coaching seemed a natural progression. Docherty gave Dave the opportunity to try new ideas.

Today, with such able lieutenants as Ron Suart, formerly of Blackpool, as his assistant, Dario Gradi and Ken Shellito looking after the reserves and youngsters, he still firmly believes that freedom is vital.

Sexton's opportunities to develop were given a further boost when struggling Leyton Orient invited him to join them as manager in 1965. The team was struggling, there was no money to spend on new players, but Sexton was ready for such an opportunity. He managed to tighten the defence, the side's dismal record improved, and there were hopes that the following season would see a continuation of the upsurge.

It didn't happen. By Christmas the same old struggles were going on and a parting seemed politic. Yet, as if to illustrate what a contrary creature the fickle finger of football fortune can be, Sexton crossed to Fulham, where relegation looked a certainty. He arrived with the side boasting 15 points from 29 games. By the end of the 42-match programme Fulham had 35 points, enough to postpone disaster for at least another year.

Difference

"I was doing exactly the same things there as I had done at Orient," he muses. "Funny, isn't it? The big difference was that at Fulham there were a lot of really good players—Johnny Haynes, Bobby Robson, John Dempsey, and so on."

From this rescue act, he gravitated to Arsenal, where his coaching reputation again won many admirers. The players couldn't do enough for him. They were appalled when he left to rejoin Chelsea, this time as manager. Highbury was a decidedly unhappy place at that time.

When he came back to Stamford Bridge, there was a decent basis on which to work. And, after a short spell, he was offered a contract for the first time in his life. The roaming was over. The biggest job was just beginning.

Sexton has brought Chelsea more order, greater planning and organisation and the prospect of more consistent success—at a higher level—than ever before. His side is respected everywhere and nobody could think of them as a soft touch.

Could they win the league title to go with those handsomely-won cups? "Anything can happen. Spirit is so important. You have to fancy your chances or you'll never win anything. This team is still improving, so obviously we are confident," he says.

From all the costly signings—the Kembers and the Garlands and so on—Sexton emerges with this philosophy: "It doesn't matter what you spend. It is a question of getting the right people." Possibly he has never got a player more "right" than Ian Hutchinson, who cost a few pounds from Cambridge United.

Dave, who spent much of his playing career at something less than soccer's highest level, believes that opportunity is vital. There are plenty of good players playing in lesser leagues, and one of the most outstanding achievements of recent years—though not widely appreciated—he puts down as the quality football which Jack Mansell instilled into his Rotherham and Reading sides. "They played football that wouldn't have disgraced the First Division."

'Amateur' competition is ridiculed

WHEN UEFA get up to their comical tricks, failing to provide for such incidents as Boninsegna and the Coca Cola can, or perpetuating an abomination such as the Intercontinental Cup, one tends to console oneself with the reflection that at least FIFA has its head screwed on the right way.

So reassuring a conviction survives with great difficulty such idiocies as their behaviour over the Olympic Football Tournament. FIFA can legitimately argue that given the appalling moral squalor of sham amateurism in athletics, show-jumping and almost everything else, the Olympic Committee has an impertinence to threaten the soccer competition; which at least scarcely pretends to be other than it is. Since 1924, and perhaps even since 1920, it has been by professionals, for professionals and about professionals, with occasional, irrelevant interventions by amateurs (or virtual amateurs).

There was, for example, the splendid exchange between the French Olympic soccer team manager, André Grillon, and the Mexican Press, in 1968, just after the French had beaten Mexico 4-1 in the Aztec Stadium. M. Grillon said he was particularly happy to have achieved such a result against a team of professionals. Instant bristling and protest from the Mexicans. How did he know they were professionals? Why, replied M. Grillon, with the utmost blandness, everybody knew. In that case, why did he not lodge a protest? Why should he, he replied, after the French had been treated so well in Mexico?

Rumania fielded their full international side in a qualifying match against Denmark in Copenhagen, in this season's tournament; and lost. Russia beat the French (more or less) amateur side 5-0 at home, and used Ishtoyan, who had recently taken part in several European Championship matches for the full Russian side.

Deplorable

In Israel, the misguided desire to keep a team in the Olympic competition has promoted "amateurism" at the price of integrity. There have, as we know, recently been deplorable scandals about the "fixing" of matches.

Yet knowing all this, Sir Stanley Rous, the President of FIFA, is still able to inform the IOC that should they reduce the number of participants in the Olympic soccer tournament to 12 or eight, FIFA would consider it discrimination against amateur football (*sic*) and would be compelled to organise their own amateur world championship.

Obscurity

If it is anything like another of FIFA and Sir Stanley's projects, the so-called European Amateur Championship for international teams, it will be a sorry affair indeed. These matches take place in an obscurity which verges on very secrecy.

The fact is that there is no place in today's football, above a relatively low level, for amateurism. Why is a famous amateur club like the Corinthian Casuals, which dates back to 1882 and the days when it twice provided the full England side, struggling to exist? The answer, quite simply, is that young undergraduates and post graduates simply won't join it, or leave it as soon as they

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LOOKING AT SOCCER • BRIAN GLANVILLE •

have made a reputation, knowing they can get well paid, free of tax, by less scrupulous senior "amateur" clubs.

In contributing to the perpetuation of such a farce, FIFA merely shows itself to be misguided and hypocritical. The real weakness of the Olympic football tournament is not so much that it has nothing to do with amateurism, but that it has no consistency, no proper criteria. Some countries put out a full strength international team, some put out an under-23 side, others field the sort of brilliant B team with which Hungary have taken the last two titles. Others, again, like England and France, use teams of alleged amateurs who are no amateurs at all in any real sense, but who at least do not play in major competition.

For my own part, I regard the Olympic Games themselves as obsolete, a corrupt and depressing survival. But that is no reason why football, and FIFA, should perpetrate a new competition which will make them a laughing stock throughout the world of sport.

Essence

I have, as readers of this Notebook will know, at best an ambivalent attitude to the Football League. I still regard them as in essence a reactionary body, promoters of second rate competitions; xenophobes at heart whose few forays into international tournaments are generally disastrous and gratuitous. To dare to threaten a competition as ancient and distinguished as the British International Championship is a disgrace.

Let them, before they do that, look at the beam that is in their own eye, examine the failings of the Football League itself—still involving far too many matches—not to mention the Football League Cup; to contemplate the possibility of withdrawing from the displeasing European Championship, or of cutting down the number of matches in the European club competitions. (Not, I know, their immediate province, but one in which they are not wholly without a voice.)

Yet in one thing we must surely stand shoulder to shoulder with the Football League, making defiant gestures at the clubs; and that is over the question of the Referees' "Revolution".

Manchester United's Bobby Charlton is tackled from behind. This sort of tackle was outlawed this season.

Certainly the League dealt with it all, at the start of the season, in a characteristically ham-handed way, springing the thing on everybody with holy glee, and causing resentment where there should have been proper appreciation (though I feel that some, like Mr. Cliff Lloyd, went much too far in condemning what they should have seen as benign.

The fact is that our referees by and large had for years been a cowardly and inept bunch, otherwise it would not have been necessary for the League to act as they did.

After that slightly hysterical start, when the motto of many a confused referee seemed to be "if it moves, book it", there was an increasing laxity in the air. The League were perfectly right to send out that bunch of letters exhorting 17 referees to pull up their socks and be firmer. In fact too many games, from mid-November onwards, one saw a depressing amount of backsliding among referees; too many unpleasant fouls going unpunished.

Just what a war football can become unless it is properly controlled was clear to me when I watched the Milan-Inter derby at San Siro last December. Though Concetto Lo Bello, Italy's most celebrated referee, was in command (I use the word loosely) fouls proliferated, and it was seldom that one man would ever allow himself to be fairly and squarely beaten by another. It was a deplorable spectacle, yet when I spoke afterwards to Lo Bello, he was smiling and serene, clearly feeling he had done a good job in a match that had included the booking of only one man: Prati.

This, to me, emphasised the extent to which the rot has set in. One has to come to such a game from outside, without having seen a match in the Italian Championship for some time, to realise what a sink of iniquity it has become, and how badly it needs its own Referees' Revolution.

News from France by ANDRE DUCLOS

NOTABLE CAPTURES FOR MONACO AND PARIS ST. GERMAIN

FAMOUS foreigners continue to arrive in France. Now Paris St. Germain have acquired no less a centre-half than Joel, of Santos and Brazil, while Suurendonk, the 28-year-old Dutch all-rounder who had one crowded hour of glorious life with Ajax last season, has come to Monaco. (Not so happy in the knowledge that should they be relegated their star forward, Louis Floch, is determined to go.)

Suurendonk's great moment, or series of moments, came in the course of a European Fairs Cup Third Round match at home to Naples, two seasons ago. The clubs were level 1-1 on aggregate, the game going into extra time, when Rinus Michels, then the Ajax manager, in a flash of inspiration, took off Van Dijk, his inside-left, and substituted Suurendonk. The stalwart Suurendonk, who likes best to play in midfield, though he was largely regarded in Amsterdam as a defender, proceeded to score three goals in seven minutes, and the game was won.

Acquisition

Unable to gain a regular place in the star-bedecked Ajax team, and now turned 28 years old, he was glad to move to Monaco, where his debut was made in midfield in a 2-2 draw at Lyon. A strong header of the ball, he hit the post in the recent European Cup-tie at home to Olympique Marseilles in Amsterdam when the Dutch team won so easily, and Suurendonk played the second half.

Paul Courtin of Nantes.

Joel, a World Cup reserve in 1970, many times capped for his country, seems quite an acquisition for Paris St. Germain, who recently gave the former Bristol City forward, Jantzen Derrick, his League debut, not without success. Meanwhile, they are waiting for the former amateur star, Daniel Horlaville, to recover from injury and long absence. They seem capable of holding their place in the First Division; as indeed do Monaco, while the other promoted side, Lille, showed in a 4-2 home win over Angouleme that they are not without hope.

Plenty of space

As for Louis Floch, he is waiting impatiently for a chance to play a complete match for France. In retrospect, it seems as if Georges Boulogne, the team manager, was mistaken in not fielding him for the whole return European championship match in Sofia against Bulgaria. In the previous game, at Nantes, he had come on, like Rodney Marsh for England at Wembley, just for the last eight minutes, giving the Bulgarian defence all sorts of trouble with his pace and punch. This seemed to indicate that he would be retained for Sofia, but in the event he came on only after an hour, did still better, and made the French goal for Blanchet, the Nantes right winger.

Just 24, Floch has now played eight games for France, five of them as a substitute. Boulogne says he sees him as a right-winger rather than a centre-forward, as a counter-attacking player who needs plenty of space. Since France were not likely to play a counter-attacking game at Nantes, it did not seem right to pick him; at least initially. At outside-right, he preferred to pick Blanchet in front of his home, Nantes, crowd.

Again, in Sofia, he preferred to keep Blanchet on the right wing, and felt that he was in fact the best player. There are obvious holes in the argument, given Floch's contribution in the two games, but there we are. Boulogne picks the team. "Before Nantes and before Sofia," said Boulogne, "I knew Blanchet was in very good form. He proved it on the field."

Stopper

Floch, a Breton, isn't very happy on the Cote d'Azur, where so many people would gladly live. It gets too hot, he says, and when the sun does shine, he prefers it to be shining in Brittany. His contract with Monaco lasts, meanwhile, till 1973.

One completely new cap in Bulgaria was the Guadeloupe-born centre-half of Ajaccio (Corsica), the powerful stopper Marius Trésor. Trésor, who had never seen snow before he came to France to play, initially, for Sedan, has been a defender for most of his career. For 18 months, however, bored with the role, he played at centre-forward for his local Juventus St.-Anne club. 21 years old, he has already made up his mind to retire at 30, "if all goes well." By a rather weird

Paul Courtin in action for Nantes in a French league game.

freak of selection Trésor, who is a centre-back with Ajaccio, was picked to play left-back in Sofia against the lively Vassilev, though he had not filled the position since he was 17 years old.

He had, understandably, a somewhat uncertain beginning, then, in his own words, realised that he had to arrive at Vassilev at the same moment as the ball; after which things went a good deal better. Beautifully built and a fine athlete, Trésor has never yet worn shinpads, nor does he intend to.

Though Salif Keita continues to score a superabundance of goals, his St. Etienne club have dropped far out of the hunt, and Josip Skoblar, scoring not quite so prolifically for Marseilles, looks as if he will win another championship medal. Gilbert Gress, the inside-forward who returned to France from VfB Stuttgart last season, complained recently that France were still "a World Cup behind," and the fact that Ajax eliminated his club from the European Cup suggests he may not be wholly wrong.

Gress feels that French football is over-specialised, that wingers, for example, are expected to be nothing else but wingers, whereas in a team like Ajax, anyone can do anything; and often does. He himself, he says, bluntly refused to play "second centre-forward" to Skoblar when he arrived at Marseilles, since he believed that at some time or another everybody in the team should be capable of doing that job.

Nimes, Rennes and Sochaux continue to keep in the race, but none of these has the big guns of Marseilles; whose crowds, however, have slipped sharply since that defeat in the European Cup. Where they used to be well over 30,000, they have recently been down to the 18,000 mark.

DUTCH ROW

ATTEMPTS by the KNVB Dutch FA) to nobble shamateurs have backfired. When convictions and tough sentences on two clubs were quashed by the KNVB's Appeals' Commission an internal row broke which culminated in mass resignations.

Amateur clubs OVVO of Amsterdam and Uithoorn walked away unscathed from their appeals after the Commission found there was insufficient proof. Immediately the investigating commission, which convicted the clubs, quit in anger. An open brief for shamateurism was how the appeal result was seen in some quarters and one incensed district official began to campaign for the Appeals' Commission to be scrapped in favour of a new set-up.

The climax of the affair came with the resignation of the Appeals' Commission members. They did not have the trust of the amateur section of the KNVB, they said.

Barry Hughes, Go Ahead Eagles' English trainer, is known for his love of practical jokes. Or rather he was. Hughes was locked in his office by first team players and found it so unfunny he ordered the whole team to play the forthcoming reserve fixture and the reserves to face NEC in an important Premier Division clash.

The team was to have gone through late punishment training but when three players refused to do it Hughes opted for the team switch. The players held a solidarity meeting in a nearby restaurant while the Deventer club's president, de Jong, stood firmly behind Hughes. Even a confession from Nico van Zoghel—"I did it. Punish me not the whole team"—failed to break the deadlock.

Then the KNVB stepped in to stop the nonsense as the rules do not allow a deliberately weak team to take the field. Talks between Go Ahead players and committee followed and the axe was buried. Van Zoghel even got a bonus. The 2-2 draw with NEC was his 250th game for the club and it earned him a gold watch.

England accused of conspiracy

THREE QUESTIONS asked of Joao Havelange in Madrid were cleverly turned by Rio de Janeiro newspapers and used to accuse England of conspiring against Brazil's "Mini-World Cup" tournament.

The Confederacion Brasileña (CBD) president met leading football personalities in Madrid (and nine other capitals) to outline his plans for the Mini-World Cup to be held in June 1972. He extolled the *advantages* of European countries competing and emphasised the flamboyant and enticing financial rewards being offered (see inset).

He also pointed out that Brazil's National team, unbeaten in 26 games since Mexico '70, would like to lose a match to show they are not-invincible . . . and that Brazil has reached its pinnacle under his personal régime.

Towards the end of the conference Mr Havelange was asked three questions:

Willie Henderson, of Rangers and Scotland. Could be a member of the Scottish party for the soccer tournament to be staged in Brazil this summer.

Is this tournament being held solely as part of Brazil's National Independence celebrations or is there another purpose?

Is not the Mini-World Cup your personal project and did not the Brazilian Government originally lack enthusiasm?

Will not this promotion adversely affect the prestige of the FIFA Cup (World Cup) and damage interest in Munich '74?

Mr Havelange—to his credit—never dithered, wriggled or double-talked, just said: "I'll answer those questions later." *But he never did* . . . although there was ample opportunity during and after the conference.

Bloc control

The object of those enquiries was to try and obtain some admission to support the opinion so many now hold that the Mini-World Cup was a specific part of the CBD's campaign to bolster Mr Havelange's fight against Sir Stanley Rous for the presidency of FIFA, which if successful would gain for the South American bloc control of world football.

Twenty-four hours after that conference in Madrid the Rio de Janeiro newspaper *O Jornal* published a front page story, quoting Madrid sources, with an enormous headline—"European Plot Against Mini-Cup". It claimed to have uncovered a well-prepared plot saying: "England, declared enemies of Brazilian football, is conspiring with other countries to boycott the Mini-Cup being organised by CBD to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Independence of Brazil."

Each team classified for the quarter finals (four matches) will receive £6,250 per match (total £25,000). Those reaching the semi-finals (three matches) receive £10,500 (total £31,500). The winning finalists receive £31,500 and the Cup of Independence valued at £12,000, the losing finalists £23,000.

The amounts the last eight clubs will draw at the end of the tournament are: winners £88,000, losing finalists £79,000, the two losing semi-finalists £56,000 and the four losing quarter-finalists £25,000.

All 20 countries competing will be guests of the Confederacion Brasileña and receive first class jet travel and luxury hotel accommodation for a party of 25 people.

Twelve stadiums will be used including Maracana (200,000), Morumbi (150,000), Bahia (111,000), Porto Alegre, Miñas and El Salvador (100,0000).

The cost of organising the Mini-World Cup will reach £2,000,000 . . . all of which is the responsibility of the CBD without any kind of financial assistance from the State of Brazil.

(Figures are approx. because of Rates of Exchange.)

Candidature

England and her plotters, says *O Jornal* know "that success of the Mini-Cup will lower the prestige of the present World Cup and will greatly help the platform and candidature of Joao Havelange for the presidency of FIFA . . ."

"The Europeans since 1958 *(when Brazil first won the World Cup after failing disappointingly in 1950 and violently in 1954)* have never recuperated the technical prestige of their football . . . and are not disposed to lose, as well, the political control of FIFA to Brazil, or any other South American country.

"England, organisers of the plot, have now turned down the invitation to participate in the Mini-Cup personally formulated and organised by Havelange, after faithfully promising that they will play . . ." and they are urging Italy, West Germany and Yugoslavia to follow their lead thereby depriving the event of three of the five World Cup winners.

Intriguing

What utter nonsense! Who is supposed to be the arch-plotter? Dr. A. Stephen, president of the FA? Sir Alfred Ramsey? Maybe they called in the arch-wrecker, Alan Hardaker!

More intriguing and less ridiculous is . . . Who sent the questions, on which the plot-story was based, to Rio? None of the Spanish newsmen who were present. But we discovered later that a cable, which included those questions, was filed from a Madrid hotel. (Havelange stayed there, too.)

One must admit it was all very clever. The mysterious informant—or *O Jornal* cunningly called the tune, twisted the loaded questions to the basis of their own sensational accusations and attack on England. *But it also confirmed the*

JOAO HAVELANGE, President of the Brazilian Football Federation, recently held a news conference in Madrid. NORMAN CUTLER was there for WORLD SOCCER

general opinion that the Mini-Cup is tied up with the CBD "take-over" bid.

The fact that the Mini-Cup is in rough water even before it leaves port, is entirely due to Brazil's monumental mistake in choice of dates. They couldn't have chosen a worse period, in spite of having second thoughts and modifying them.

England turned down the invitation solely because, as favourites of the European Championship they expect to reach the semi-final and final (on June 14 and 18) only ten days before the Mini-Cup final stages begin in Rio on June 28. They would hardly have time to reach Brazil let alone become acclimatised. West Germany, Italy and Yugoslavia face the same problem. Russia is worse off . . . they are expected to play in the qualifying round that starts in Rio on June 10. (What if they reach the European Championship semis?)

There's nothing conspiratorial about all this. The fault is Brazil's.

Invitation

Spain, obviously invited to replace absentees (there is no justification at all for exempting them until the final stages) have similar difficulties. The Spanish Cup competition takes place between June 7 (last 16) and July 9 (finals). What does Brazil suggest—that Spain cancels her most popular national competition?

The official Brazilian explanation of Spain's invitation is "the desire of the CBD to attain the greatest cordiality between our two countries who have for a long time been separated."

Most feelings in Spain are lukewarm. But the Valencia president, D. Julio de Miguel, says: "The Mini-Cup is a tournament of friendly matches of international category, nothing more. It is merely a spectacular to make money and bolster Brazil's interests. Neither the National team nor the Federation should support such an obvious financial and self-interested project. The Mini-Cup is just another summer tournament with the same, or less, standing as our own summer promotions."

D. Joao Havelange describes the Mini-Cup as the greatest-ever festival of world football. How come? Somewhere along the line he seems to have forgotten the FIFA World Cup.

England team manager Sir Alf Ramsey and trainer Harold Shepherdson. England will not be sending a team to Brazil.

Bobby Moore . . . could he lead a Great Britain team to compete in the Brazilian tournament? The idea was put before the English FA last month.

SOCCER BOOM ON THE UP AND UP...

ANDREW DETTRE
back in Australia after a tour of Asia

IS Asia really only for the Asians? If so, who qualifies under this broad, general term that lumps together some 56 per cent of the world population on the largest continent?

To find out, once again I returned to this fascinating part of the world, together with Australian Federation official Tibor Kalman.

Asia never ceases to amaze me. Even in its small south-east corner with which Australia has such close political and economical ties, you will come across widely differing races, views and regimes, ranging from Western democracy based on Confucian philosophy to military dictatorship riddled with spectacular bureaucratic inefficiency.

But there is one thing in common, no matter where you roam from Tokyo to Djakarta, from Seoul to Kuala Lumpur: soccer's ever-rising popularity. In fact, soccer is such a powerful social force in Asia that without it some of the tolerated alliances might break down.

National team

It is into this kaleidoscopic multi-racial Asian set that Australia wants to hop. Separated by less water from Indonesia than the gap between the Philippines and Taiwan, Australia has been part and parcel of the Asian soccer scene for many years, on a kind of visitor's pass. In both 1965 and 1969, Australia had to fight its World Cup battles in Asian groups and this will be repeated again in 1973. During this period, the national team has played in Korea, Hong Kong, Macao, Vietnam, Cambodia and Indonesia while we had visits from Japanese, Hong Kong and Israeli teams.

Still, to this very date Australia belongs to the tiny Oceania Confederation with a total membership of four while Asia's 31 FIFA members have the right to belong to the Asian Football Confederation, run in the small Malaysian resort city of Penang.

Would Australia be welcome to join Asia? The opinions differ. I talked to such distinguished officials at Takuji Ono and Shun Okano in Japan, Henry Fok and D. Akers-Jones in Hong Kong, Dato Kwok Kin Keng and Sports Minister Dato Hamzah in Malaysia, Dr. Kosasih Purwanegara and Joemarsono in Indonesia as well as Korean FA officials; met FIFA vice-presidents Lim Kee Siong of Kuala Lumpur and General Y. Torsak of Thailand as well as AFC vice-president Lee Wai Tong—yet I would not take a bet whether Australia's application for AFC membership will succeed or fail.

Diplomatic relations

In some circles, there is a very pronounced and unabashed view: Asia for the Asians. Yes, I said, but has Japan more in common with Qatar than with Australia? We're all Asians, came the reply; there is an invisible bond spreading right through the continent. And there was no point arguing this: family quarrels that are so rampant among the Asian countries are of no business to outsiders. Iran and Iraq may have broken diplomatic relations; India and Pakistan just had a lovely war; the Moslem countries won't have anything to do with Israel and neither will most of the Arabs; Taiwan may soon be eased out of FIFA to accommodate Peking China—but, after all, they are all Asians while in Australia we are pure Anglo-Saxons of Scottish, English, Irish, Greek, Italian, Hungarian, German, Yugoslav and other origins . . .

One had the feeling, during these friendly discussions in the various Asian capitals, that Australia's intrusion is resented not so much on racial but sporting grounds. There is an unspoken fear just below the surface that Australia might dominate the various Asian tournaments to an unbearable extent; that the fast proliferating Asian tournaments would turn into one long triumphant procession for the tough Aussies.

Nothing could be further from the truth. For one thing, Australia could not take part in most of these tourneys because of a crowded domestic schedule. Secondly, it's too flattering to believe that Australia would be so much stronger than any of the Asians. Our standard is probably a notch below Israel and somewhere near par with Korea, Burma, Iran, Japan and a few other countries.

For Australia it's not vital to join the Asian Confederation; even some of the Asian countries don't belong to it. In it or out of it, we still get lumped together with Asian nations in the World Cup groups. However, Australia would like to join the AFC because, for the first time, it genuinely feels that it can contribute something to the region's soccer development.

Australia's membership

As a gesture of goodwill, the Australian Federation has issued an invitation to Southeast Asian countries to send one of their players to spend a season in Sydney; a sort of Soccer Colombo Plan.

In October, 1972, the Australian national team will undertake a major Asian tour touching on Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Indonesia and probably also Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia. Both these ventures will go ahead regardless of Asia's vote on Australia's membership in the AFC.

This application, in all probabilities, will be sent along soon in order to make the agenda of the Asian Confederation meeting in Bangkok next April where also the World Cup elimination venues and dates will be worked out.

It would be gross exaggeration to claim that Australia awaits the result in breathless agony; the majority of fans and players probably don't even know such a possibility exists. However, by admitting Australia into the Asian Confederation and allowing her to play her part in the game's progress, soccer and soccer alone would be the main beneficiary. That's why I believe that the vote in Bangkok will be a pleasant "yes".

Fenerbache lose again and drop to sixth place

BRIAN BIRCH coach of Galatasary reports from TURKEY

Besiktas 1 Fenerbache 0. Yes, another defeat for Fenerbache. This surely puts them out of contention for this year. They now drop to sixth place, and at this stage of the proceedings it is not exactly the right spot to be.

Like most "Derby" games this match was far too tense and hectic for good football to be played. In fact, but for the goal (and this was a penalty), a couple of long range shots from either side, the game was more or less played in the middle of the field.

The penalty was awarded for a foul on Yusef, the Besiktas mid-field star. He picked up a loose ball just outside the Fenerbache area and set off on a run towards the Fenerbache defence. He beat one and two but at three he was pulled down from behind and Mr. Sabri had no hesitation in pointing to the spot. Ergun made no mistake.

Degenerated

From this moment all forms of adventurous football came to an end. The game now degenerated into petty fouls and every type of gamesmanship from one side and then the other.

But a good win for Besiktas, and two valuable points. And on this form Fenerbache can have little hope of winning many more matches. Their game is lacking in tempo and there doesn't seem to be anybody on hand at the moment who is willing to take the game by the scruff of the neck and dominate the tactics.

Of course, the team is getting older but this blended with one or two younger players on their staff should work to their advantage.

Dominate

At present it is not. In mid-field they have some very useful players in Ziya, Fuat and Ostoyvic, on paper they should completely dominate, but they seem to be at sixes and sevens and little policy of approach is evident.

Muharrem, formerly of Mersin and their most expensive buy, has done nothing since coming back from his injury sustained soon after signing. On last year's form with Mersin he looked the part. If he had one fault it was that he had little idea of where his team mates were in relation to the play. This is one of the reasons we at Galatasary shied away when he was made available.

Osman, at centre forward (also a former Mersin player) has proved to be a solid investment. He, above all the others in the Fenerbache side, looks the most dangerous when close to goal. But he is finding it increasingly difficult to score goals as the season progresses and the other sides become aware of where the danger lies. I, for one, do hope they shake themselves out of this patch for when they are threatening, our gates certainly improve.

While Besiktas were helping themselves to two points at the expense of Fenerbache, my own side (Galatasary) were preparing to take on another local team, Istanbul Spor. This may sound terribly conceited, but they gave us little trouble and we finished easy winners 2-0.

Third spot

Eskihisir Spor, also in the top six, were at home to Veffa and won 3-0. Altay (Izmir) won again 2-0 when they played host to Samsun proving that their form is no flash in the pan. This win takes them into third spot, one point behind Galatasary and two behind the present leaders, Besiktas.

This side could be the shock troops of the year, for they have shown a steady improvement since the beginning of the season. Most people took little notice of this improvement until they gave Besiktas a 3-0 drubbing three weeks ago.

They are playing good constructive football and are taking their chances. Who could ask for more? With only three more matches to go before the close of the first period of the season it is still wide open. For me . . . Galatasary. But of course I am inclined to be a little biassed.

Since the resignation of Cirhat Arman as national coach, many names have been placed before the Turkish Football Federation. Did I say placed? Sorry. Blazoned would be more appropriate, for it is common practice here in Turkey for a newspaper (and there are at least ten) to adopt a candidate, more or less like a primary election in the U.S.A.

The winner this year was Coskun Ozari, a former Galatasary player and presently writing a column in the very popular newspaper *Millet*. With this appointment a perculiar situation has arisen. First, Cirhat Arman is still on the pay roll. Second, Metin Turel, a young coach now working with first division side Veffa has been sent to Budapest to prepare for future national duty. Third Technical director Petrescou, a Rumanian, now employed as director of coaching, is also asked to participate in plans for the national team. With no matches in view for 1972 we now have four coaches and no game. Work that one out!

Revised suspensions

THE West German Federation Tribunal have imposed an additional two years' suspension on Lothar Ulsass and Max Lorenz, Eintracht Brunswick's two international players implicated in last season's bribery scandal.

The two players were found guilty of accepting what amounted to a bribe to win their match against Oberhausen last June—the money coming from Arminia Bielefeld in the hope that they would thereby avoid relegation. Ulsass and Lorenz were offered £20,000 by a Bielefeld official Rupert Schreiner, and although the game ended in a 1-1 draw, they kept the advance payment of 40,000 marks, £4,800.

BEST AND BALL MAKE NEWS

Alan Ball waits with his father, Alan Ball Snr., at Watford Station for Arsenal manager Bertie Mee at the start of the transfer negotiations which resulted in Ball moving from Everton to Arsenal.

NEWSPAPERS in England have experienced no shortage of copy during recent weeks with the Alan Ball transfer from Everton to Arsenal being closely followed by the George Best 'walk-out' on Manchester United.

Everton's decision to release Ball certainly came out of the blue. One would have thought this England regular had become a permanent fixture at Goodison Park but Arsenal wasted no time in securing his signature for a reported fee of £220,000.

Before the ink was dry on his new contract with Arsenal, Ball had also signed for the Mirror group—for a series of ghosted articles in both the *Daily Mirror* and *Sunday Mirror*. Although it was strange to see that both the *Daily Mirror* and *Daily Express* had 'exclusive' articles by Ball the morning after he had signed.

Everton's results immediately after Ball's move were somewhat better than those achieved by Arsenal. However, I do not subscribe to the view that Ball is 'burned out.' Far from it, he has probably yet to reach his peak, although it may be some time before he settles down in the swing of things at Highbury.

One can also hope that the dust will quickly settle on the whole transfer episode. While the *Sunday Mirror* had Alan junior relating the inside story on the move, the *Sunday People*, not to be completely outdone, had Alan Ball senior telling what was purported to be the same story. They were some notable discrepancies between the two articles.

A few days later Harry Catterick, manager of Everton, was reported as saying that team spirit at his club had improved 200 per cent after Ball's departure. Ball didn't like the inference of that particular remark and had a few harsh words to say about Mr. Catterick the following Sunday.

Personally, I found both Ball's articles and some of the other comments about the move a little tiresome. Ball may not have wanted to leave Goodison Park—but he certainly received a handsome sum of money for going. His cut of the transfer fee and a lucrative contract with the Mirror group go on top of his guaranteed annual salary of £12,500 with Arsenal.

The newspapers quickly forgot Alan Ball when it became apparent that George Best had, yet again, walked out on Manchester United. He was dropped for the home match with Wolverhampton Wanderers after missing a week's training. Best failed to report to Old Trafford after the match at West Ham . . . lost 0—3.

The news broke on the Friday before United were due to meet Wolves. Best was missing. He turned up in London, with his girl-friend—Carolyn Moore and was seen leaving a discotheque at 4 am on Saturday morning. Eventually he re-appeared in Manchester.

The *News of the World* claimed that Best was in dispute with his club over money. He was angered to learn, they reported, that Bobby Charlton and Denis Law were on a higher basic wage. Other papers said it was nothing to do with money. Best, in his *Daily Express* column on the following Monday, agreed.

Temperamental

I don't envy Frank O'Farrell his task of sorting out the Best problem. It is easy for certain people outside Manchester United to suggest that the club would be better off without their temperamental Irish genius. I find that difficult to swallow. Best, for all the trouble he causes the club, does more good than harm in the long run.

Manchester United need Best but George's behaviour—however much it may have been motivated by personal or emotional problems—leaves a sour taste in the mouth. It is a pity that he cannot devote himself completely to football for the next few years. After all, his career is a short one and if he is as much in love with the

Seen and heard ---------- by PHILIP RISING

game as he says he is, it shouldn't be difficult to ostracise himself from outside interests.

If any other player in the country had walked-out as Best did, he would have been heavily disciplined. Best gets away with a great deal simply because he is George Best.

He may be one of the world's greatest players but he is hardly a model professional. If he did have a grouse about Charlton and Law receiving more money, he should carefully examine their mode of life and attitude towards their profession.

George Best has a long way to go before he can even be talked out in the same way as Bobby Charlton.

Frank O'Farrell dealt with Best in a way which earned him nothing but praise from those both inside and outside the club. He fined Best, ordered him to leave his luxury home and to return to digs, ordered extra training and loss of five days off. Best was humbled and Frank O'Farrell emerged with his already considerable reputation enhanced.

FIXTURE congestion is a perennial problem. Recent talk of scrapping the Home International Championship and/or Under 23 matches earned little approval up and down the country. I agree that players are subjected to too many matches during the course of a year but to start any fixture pruning with the HIC would be nonsensical.

I am still in favour of cutting down the number of clubs in each of the Football League divisions. And I wouldn't lose any sleep if the Watney Cup and Texaco Cup sank into obscurity. An extension of the season might also help.

But international matches, including those between the Home countries, are worth keeping. The public like them and would be even more in favour if each of the countries—and not just England—had complete freedom of choice.

Under 23 internationals are essential. Perhaps I take an isolated view but I think country should come before club. I appreciate that the clubs pay the players wages and cannot afford to release their stars too often. Personally, I would like to see England play, on average, one international per month during the course of a year.

Others think there are too many international games already. Club managers moan that their players are given no rest between games and that two matches a week is over-doing things. The players may suffer—although I am by no means convinced of this—but do the clubs themselves? The more matches played means greater financial income. And, as we all know, money plays a major part in professional football the world over.

CHELSEA's record in Cup competitions during the past three years is amazing. Winners of the FA Cup in 1970, they potted the European Cup Winners Cup last year and have now reached the final of the Football League Cup, scheduled for Wembley on March 4.

After a poor start to the season, Dave Sexton has again moulded his team into an enterprising, consistent unit. Since that surprise Cup Winners Cup ko by Swedish side Atvidaberg—still the biggest European competitions shock of the season—Chelsea have certainly pulled their socks up.

A welcome return to form by Alan Hudson has had much to do with Chelsea's improvement but the man I see as the foundation and inspiration behind their success is David Webb.

I thought Webb was the outstanding Chelsea player in the Cup Winners Cup final against Real Madrid in Athens last year. And against Tottenham Hotspur, in the second leg of the League Cup semi final, Webb was superb.

His stout work in defence when the Chelsea goal was under heavy pressure kept Tottenham at bay and although Martin Chivers got one goal he generally failed to find a way past Webb.

In other matches it has often been Webb who has been thrown forward to add punch to Chelsea's attack and it was his goal at Nottingham Forest, in an earlier round of the League Cup, that helped Chelsea reach their third final.

And who was it who played in goal for the London club when they recently entertained Ipswich in a first division match and found themselves without a recognised goalkeeper? Webb again. He really is a remarkably versatile player who performs whatever task he is given with a maximum amount of efficiency and simplicity.

Dave Sexton has made a number of purchases since he took over at Stamford Bridge but I doubt whether any of his signings have given as much value for money as Webb. He is probably not the sort of player who will win England recognition—perhaps he doesn't have the class of someone like Roy McFarland—but if ever he did play for his country, I'm sure David Webb would prove a valuable asset.

There was a time, not so very long ago, when only goals scored in League and FA Cup matches counted in the race to determine a season's highest goalscorers. Then came the various European competitions and the League Cup. But I read of an instance in one national newspaper where a player's goals in previous season friendlies were also taken into consideration. Why stop there? Let's add on goals scored in training matches, too. And bring in a computer to keep count!

Dave Webb (extreme left) of Chelsea clears from Trevor Cherry and Geoff Hutt of Huddersfield. Chelsea's John Dempsey is also pictured.

Post-war survey BULGARIA by Eric Batty

TWO DOMIN

AS in some other East European countries the names of Bulgarian clubs have been much changed and those shown are the names by which clubs are known at the moment, including honours earned when they were known by different names. Before the last war the Bulgarian game was a nonentity, a backwater to the European soccer sea, but in the last 20 years tremendous progress has been made. Throughout the last ten years the Bulgarian national team has earned at least respect where the game is played, and progressing first via the Olympic Games, the Bulgarians have qualified for the final stages of the last three World Cup competitions.

Throughout this period two clubs have stood out, invariably providing most of the players as the national team has progressed. CSKA have been the most successful as the records show and when they have lapsed temporarily it has usually been Levski-Spartak, who have been almost eternal runners-up, who have benefited. CSKA, the team of the Bulgarian Army, were formed in 1947 and a year later were champions in the unofficial regional competition which was set up. Known at that time as Septemvri CDV, they were halted temporarily in season 1948-49 and 1950 (when the season was changed to a spring-autumn campaign) by Levski who recorded four consecutive Cup and League doubles.

Prior to CSKA's initial success, Levski took the Cup (official) and League (unofficial) two years in a row, and in the first two official league seasons after the re-organisation were champions twice and Cup winners twice even if on each occasion they were taken to two replays—by CSKA each time in the Cup Finals.

	Champions	P	W	D	L	Goals F.A.	P
1945–46							
1946–47	No competition—Regional leagues only.						
1947–48							
1948–49	Levski-Spartak	18	15	3	0	44.8	33
1950	Levski-Spartak	18	12	5	1	36.12	29
1951	C.S.K.A.	22	18	1	3	62.7	37
1952	C.S.K.A.	22	13	7	2	38.12	33
1953	Levski-Spartak	28	19	5	4	48.22	43
1954	C.S.K.A.	26	20	5	1	76.14	45
1955	C.S.K.A.	26	14	9	3	38.16	37
1956	C.S.K.A.	22	11	9	2	46.25	31
1957	C.S.K.A.	22	15	4	3	53.16	34
1958	C.S.K.A.	11	7	4	0	19.9	18
1958–59	C.S.K.A.	22	13	6	3	37.16	32
1959–60	C.S.K.A.	22	12	8	2	42.18	32
1960–61	C.S.K.A.	26	18	4	4	56.17	40
1961–62	C.S.K.A.	26	18	5	3	60.25	41
1962–63	Trakia Plovdiv	30	19	5	6	57.33	43
1963–64	Lokomotive Sofia	30	18	8	4	53.28	44
1964–65	Levski-Spartak	30	18	6	6	59.28	42
1965–66	C.S.K.A.	30	17	8	5	53.30	42
1966–67	Trakia Plovdiv	30	13	12	5	39.24	38
1967–68	Levski-Spartak	30	18	9	3	61.29	45
1968–69	C.S.K.A.	30	22	3	5	74.38	47
1969–70	Levski-Spartak	30	23	4	3	67.17	50
1970–71	C.S.K.A.	30	21	6	3	74.21	48

TOP SCORER

Milanov (CSKA)	11
Nedev (Cernomore)	
Hranov (Levski-Spartak)	11
Milanov (CSKA)	13
Isakov (Slavia)	10
Tashkov (Spartak-Sofia)	
Minchev (Spartak Pleven)	15
Tashkov (Slavia)	25
Diev (Spartak Plovdiv)	13
Vladimirov (Mineur)	16
Iliev (Levski-Spartak)	14
Tashkov (Slavia)	9
Arnavdov (Spartak Varna)	
Vasilev (Slavia)	13
Yordanov (Levski-Spartak)	12
Kostov (Spartak Varna)	
Sotirov (Trakia Plovdiv)	20
Yordanov (Dunav Ruse)	23
Diev (Spartak-Plovdiv)	26
Zanev (CSKA)	26
Asparoukhov (Levski)	27
Spasov (Marek)	21
Jekov (Beroe)	21
Jekov (Beroe)	31
Jekov (CSKA)	36
Jekov (CSKA)	31
Yakimov (CSKA)	26

Pre-war favourites

In 1951, CSKA themselves took their first Cup and League double with Levski chasing them home in the League and another Sofia neighbour, Akademik, going down to them in the Cup Final. This was the start of the real Army team that was to rule the Bulgarian game for a decade, but before this came about Levski, the pre-war favourites of the Sofia fans, were to have a last word.

Levski took the 1953 campaign, still based on spring to autumn as were most of Bulgaria's Central European neighbours at that time, and they reached the Cup Final, only to

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SUCCESSES:

C.S.K.A.	15
Levski-Spartak	11
Slavia	6
Cherno More Varna	4
Trakia Plovdiv	3
Lokomotive Sofia	
Spartak Varna	1
AS 23 Sofia	
Sportklub Sofia	
Levski-Spartak	4
Levski-Spartak	1
Lokomotive Sofia	1
Levski-Spartak	2
Levski-Spartak	1
C.S.K.A.	1
Slavia	3
Lokomotive Sofia	2
C.S.K.A.	2
C.S.K.A.	5
Levski-Spartak	5
Levski-Spartak	2
Trakia Plovdiv	1
Levski-Spartak	1
C.S.K.A.	4
C.S.K.A.	3
Trakia Plovdiv	3
Slavia	2
Slavia	3
C.S.K.A.	3
Slavia	1
Levski-Spartak	3
Levski-Spartak	3
C.S.K.A.	2
Levski-Spartak	2
Levski-Spartak	3

FA CUP VICTORIES

Levski-Spartak	16
Slavia	8
C.S.K.A.	7
Trakia Plovdiv	3
Cherno More Varna	3
Lokomotive Sofia	2
Shipka Sofia	1
AS 23 Sofia	
Sportklub Sofia	
Spartak Varna	
Chernolometz Popova	1
Trakia Plovdiv	0
Lokomotive Plovdiv	0
C.S.K.A.	1*
C.S.K.A.	0**
Akademik Sofia	0
Spartak Sofia	1
Levski-Spartak	1
Slavia	1
Trakia Plovdiv	2
Trakia Plovdiv	2
Trakia Plovdiv	1
Mineur Pernik	0
Trakia Plovdiv	0
Lokomotive Plovdiv	3
Spartak Varna	0
Dunav Ruse	0
Trakia Plovdiv	0
Trakia Plovdiv	2
Levski-Spartak	2
C.S.K.A.	0
Spartak Sofia	0
Beroe	2
Levski-Spartak	1
C.S.K.A.	1
Lokomotive Plovdiv	0

Notes: *After 1–1 and 2–2 draws. **After two 1–1 draws.

CLUBS
MINATE

lose 1-2 Lokomotive Sofia. Then came the CSKA marathon that left their rivals with very little joy—except the rare pleasure of beating them in a League match from time to time.

Formative years

Having changed their name to CDNA in 1952 (Centralen Dom Narodny Armei), CSKA carried off nine League titles in succession, commencing with the 1954 season. This was the early period of the European Cup and though the Bulgarians declined to enter for the first series, CDNA, as they were then known, soon became familiar throughout Europe. These were the formative years of several outstanding Bulgarian players including the CSKA pair centre-forward Panayot Panayotov and Ivan Kolev.

In addition to being champions nine times in a row, CSKA completed doubles by taking the Bulgarian FA Cup five times in this period while Levski had to be content with three FA Cup successes in spite of their being overshadowed in the League. Also in this period two other events of note took place —changing their season to the almost universal autumn to spring period to which they have adhered ever since and which CSKA took in their stride and the winning of a major honour by a provincial club for the first time since the war.

Accomplished

Before the war Varna (a Black Sea town) and Plovdiv were both soccer strongholds, occasionally throwing down a challenge to the bigger, stronger Sofia clubs, and in 1958 Spartak Plovdiv beat CSKA on their way to the final and carried off the trophy. Four years later their neighbours, Botev Plovdiv, accomplished the same feat, the only two occasions (post-war) when the Cup has left Sofia.

CSKA it seems allowed their team to grow old together without developing young replacements, for since their nine years' domination, though they have taken the title three more times, the honours have been more evenly shared. One championship was taken by Botev Plovdid in 1963 and they repeated this feat four years later before changing their name to Trakia Plovdiv. Trakia being the old name for Thrace, of which Plovdiv was at one time the capital.

Action from a recent match for the Bulgarian League championship . . . No. 10 is Yakimov of CSKA.

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Fewer goals, lower crowds

Swiss News by ARTHUR ROTMIL

PETER RAMSEIER of Switzerland.

FEWER goals and fewer spectators, plus a concentration of the country's top talent in the ranks of a handful of the best clubs—these have been the main features of the Swiss championship campaign, whose first half came to its customary winter-halt in mid-December. The Cup quarter-finals, originally scheduled for December 12, have been put off till March 12, whilst the battle for points will be resumed a week earlier. On Easter Monday (April 3), the Cup semi-finals will be staged, and on Whit-Monday (May 22) the Cup final.

The last League round provided also the long awaited duel between the leaders FC Zürich and their closest challengers FC Basel. In a highly dramatic encounter, the standard of which was a credit to Swiss soccer, Basel despite missing their injured captain Karl Odermatt, pulled back a 1-3 deficit in the last quarter of an hour to draw 3-3!

Statistics

From this division of points profited the title holders, Grasshoppers, who, thanks to a 2-1 away win over Chaux-de-Fonds, are now level with Basel. Both clubs, however, are trailing Zürich by three points. These three clubs will no doubt decide the championship between them, since the next placed Young Boys are already four points in arrears by comparison with the two runners-up.

This last day was also curious in as much as no team could win at home! This unusual trend is also evident from the overall statistics which show only 38 home wins, 27 draws and 26 away victories. The goals' total dropped from 301 (last year's "half-time") to 287, whilst the average slumped to 3.15 goals per match—still the third highest in Europe, after Luxembourg and Northern Ireland! 22 per cent of the goals were scored by the foreign mercenaries. Leading scorers: W. Müller (Young Boys) 11; Künzli (Zürich) 10; Balmer (Basel) and Dimanseler (Winterthur) 9.

Total attendances have dropped by 44,800 and the average for the corresponding period from 8,200 to 7,700 spectators per match. But this figure is still higher than for instance in such a much larger country as France, or one as famous for its football enthusiasm as Hungary where the average is only 5,950! Switzerland's most popular club remain Basle whose average of 18,300 must be the envy of many clubs in considerably bigger lands. Next best supported outfit were Young Boys of Berne with 13,700, followed by FC Zürich on 11,200 and their local rivals and champions, Grasshoppers, with 9,000.

The fact that the country's leading players are grouped chiefly in two or three clubs, has of course helped the national side whose team work and discipline impressed particularly during those two closely fought recent battles with England in the European Championship. FC Zürich and Basel, who between them beat the élite of candidates for teams at various representative levels, form the backbone of the national side.

On the other hand, such domination of the League by just a few clubs is certainly not helping to sustain the interest of the soccer public except before major clashes. But what about the fans of the "underprivileged" teams, who have little or no chance of a breakthrough to the top? Naturally, the lesser fry want to fight any attempt at monopoly but they haven't a hope when the rich clubs are getting progressively wealthier and the poorer are tottering on the brink of financial ruin.

The frequent managerial changes are not helping the "also rans" either. Loss of continuity, the difficulty in adjusting to new training methods can be particularly tricky here, in view of the semi-professional set up—not least on account of the language problems! All this adds up to some stiff hurdles, not common to other countries.

NEW RUSSIAN COACH

A NEW coach for the Russian national side, Alexander Ponamaryov, at present running the Soviet's Olympic squad. He takes over from Valentin Nikolayev, who, according to Tass, has found the combined duties of coaching the national team and Moscow's Central Army Club too demanding.

But it would seem that Nikolayev has paid the penalty for Russia's indifferent performances last year when despite qualifying for the quarter-finals of the European Championship, they still lacked creative movement up front and dominance in midfield.

Ponamaryov will continue to fulfil his duties as Olympic coach until after the Munich games—another factor that raises doubts about the reasons given for Nikolayev's resignation—but will then take over the national side full time. Now 53, Ponamaryov was best known as a Moscow Torpedo player, but he has been a coach now for almost 20 years.

YEATS SAYS 'FAREWELL'

by ERIC THORNTON

RONNIE YEATS, the grand old-timer with the soccer know-how that's only inherited from vast experience, is flying a flag for hundreds of players who are soft-padding it into the 30s and worrying about the future.

At a time when civvy street master craftsmen are having difficulty finding jobs, many footballers are discovering that skilled feet and smart head propulsion counts for little in the labour market.

The Liverpool colossus these many years carefully considered that particular problem while nursing a back injury, then gradually changed his mind about an earlier decision to quit after hanging up his boots.

Taking note of friendly advice, the centre-half of 6 ft. plus and 14½ st. whom Dundee United first admired as a youngster way back in the '50s, decided it might be better to stay in the game he knows so well than try his luck outside with the odds very probably loaded the wrong side.

Casualty

So he discussed the position at some length with Bill Shankly, the manager who has examined similar and recurring difficulties with many others over the years, and was pleased when Tranmere, responding to the Liverpool chief's recommendation, said they'd like him to go over.

A casualty, just then, but fit and eager a month later, he motored smartly through the Tunnel and then stepped down two soccer grades to join Rovers, the Cinderella club which is forever contesting, yet never winning, the battle for support with its mighty rivals across the water.

Now today, while this honest-to-goodness Aberdonian extends a long playing career on sterner fields, the Prenton Park folk are also teaching him the business of management, because a dual appointment slots him alongside team boss Jackie Wright as first assistant.

Everyone is rather naturally hoping this is going to prove the first step in a successful new career in hot seats, though, of course, only time will supply the answer to that query, even though the references are exceptionally good.

Good? I must immediately correct that, and substitute tremendous, or otherwise my old friend Shankly will be coming down like a ton of bricks, because, after all, this man we've got in mind was one of his earliest and best signings.

You'll rightly gather the warmth of Bill's feelings for Yeats when he says of him: "He's done more for Liverpool than any other single player, and I can never pay too great a tribute to a man who arrived at the start of everything—promotion, the Championships, the Cup and Europe."

A fine period to remember—1962, when he helped steer the Anfielders out of the Second Division; 1964, a stroll to the Championship; 1965, the old club's first-ever Cup triumph; 1966, that title success all over again.

This East Coast product certainly knew the glories. And the thrill of the Kop chanting "Yeats . . . Yeats . . . Yeats". For he was a man after their own hearts—a commanding figure always fighting the cause of the Reds.

It was necessary to be outstanding those days, because all around were other talented characters. For your delight there were such as Tommy Lawrence, Roger Hunt, Ian St. John, Gerry Byrne, Ian Callaghan, Chris Lawler, Peter Thompson, Geoff Strong and Tommy Smith.

It's going to be a tough break for a while, and one must admit that Liverpool's former skipper has plenty to be nostalgic about. A trip down Memory Lane with him would always be a fascinating affair.

Yet although Mister Experience now looks back on a string of wonder games, he was a doubter 12 years ago as he booked a single ticket south from the Tay Bridge.

Of all the intervening period he says, simply: "I could write a book about the interesting occasions I remember since first moving to Merseyside, rather nervous and apprehensive about it all."

He'll be missed by the Anfield thousands who will be packing the stands and terraces for the testimonial, some time later in the year, to RONNIE YEATS, SOMETIME CAPTAIN OF LIVERPOOL.

Ron Yeats (5) pictured playing for Liverpool against Everton in 1969. The Everton players are Joe Royle and Alan Ball.

RUMANIAN SET EXAM

by ARTHUR ROTMIL

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR'S uncomfortable passage in the third round of the UEFA Cup against the Rumanian side Rapid, at Bucharest, has provided some more ammunition for the critics of international tournaments in general and European football in particular. The tough tactics of the hosts, which caused several of the Spurs players to return home injured, had been reported in some English papers as a typical example of violence on European fields and gained prominence even over and above the unquestionable merits of Tottenham's 2-0 victory.

Strong comments came from the usually calm, but on this occasion clearly upset, Tottenham manager Bill Nicholson: "Rapid were a disgrace. The dirtiest side I have seen in 30 years of football. If this is European soccer, it makes you think you would be better off out of it," he was quoted as saying.

No one should condone bad behaviour by teams or individual players. On the other hand, sweeping generalisations concerning the footballing conduct of any particular nation are often misleading—not to say unfair. The Rumanians themselves were quick to punish their own players. Rapid's goalkeeper and captain Necula Raducanu was suspended for three games for throwing the ball into the back of the Italian referee, while defender Ion Pop — who was sent off together with Tottenham's Jimmy Pearce —was banned for two matches.

Other countries where similar incidents are either hushed up, or simply swept under the carpet, would do well to learn from the Rumanian FA, in this instance. Those who hurl verbal bricks at Rumanian football, because of the fracas in Bucharest, should acquaint themselves with these facts first, before demanding an "inquiry into the state of Rumanian football"—as one or two reporters had put it: in the past three years only *one* other Rumanian player received marching orders in any of the three major European competitions.

Inquiry

By comparison, during that same period, no fewer than 15 (fifteen) British players had been sent off. Considering that this season, in the English Football League alone, there have been—as I write—already 1,000 players booked, it would hardly seem the right time to invite a UEFA inquiry into the state of Rumanian football! Rather we should be thankful that the Rumanians have not—to the best of my knowledge—been as impertinent as to demand an inquiry into the state of British soccer!

It is true, of course, that this season there have been some unsavoury incidents at various European Cup matches. The German champions Borussia Mönchen-Gladbach, their opponents Inter-Milan, plus referee Dorpmans of Holland, could not agree even on the contents of a can of a well-known soft drink which a still anonymous "fan" hurled at Inter's centre-forward Boninsegna.

It is doubtful whether any other company manufacturing a similar beverage had ever received so much free publicity for its product, which, ironically enough, is often derided among Italian catering personnel as "American wine"! This solitary can (so perfectly aimed, too!) has caused UEFA to annul the 7-1 victory of Borussia. It was really ludicrous to hear how the Italians insisted that the can was full; the referee stated that the can was half-filled, while the Germans swear that it was empty!

Martin Peters of Tottenham Hotspur and Billy Bonds of West Ham United contest possession during a recent League game at White Hart Lane.

Terraces

There was also trouble at Budapest, when Greek players of Panionios—managed, incidentally, by the Englishman Joe Mallett—attacked the German referee Ferdinand Biwersi and tore his shirt to shreds, after he had ignored their protests over a couple of allegedly offside goals in their 0-6 defeat by Ferencvaros. There have also been some objects thrown from the terraces during matches in Marseille, St. Etienne, Madrid (once at Real's and once at Atletico's ground), and in Dublin.

The relevant clubs being held responsible for maintaining order, were punished with either a one-match ban, or fined and warned. The fines ranged from £300 to £500. The severest penalties hit the Greek club Panionios, which was promptly expelled from this season's UEFA Cup tournament, the tie having been awarded to their opponents, Ferencvaros. In addition, several players have received the following suspensions: Moraitelis, banned from all UEFA games until December 31, 1974 (!); Barbis Intzoglou, banned till December 31,

FA PLE

1973; Haitas suspended till December 31, 1972, plus loss of team captaincy for life; Artanasios Ingoglu, banned for three matches; and the club's trainer Iliupulos suspended in his function till December 31, 1972.

The Greek Ministry for Sport also acted with determination and immediately banned all Panionios players from appearing in the national side until the end of 1972! That is why Greece missed, in their last match against England, the top defender Haitas plus the country's leading scorer Dedes. Panionios have also been suspended from all international competitions until 1973! It will be seen that this was the only serious case directly involving players, whilst other incidents concerned crowd behaviour. Therefore to say that European football is notoriously violent is quite exaggerated. Here is another example:

West Ham goalkeeper Bobby Ferguson punches clear from Mike England (5) of Spurs.

Incident

In the 1969-70 season there were 212 international matches played under the jurisdiction of the European Football Union—without a single serious incident. In 127 games covering the entire Champions' Cup and the Cup-Winners' Cup competitions—that is to say during 194 hours of top-class football—with 3,048 players taking part, only two men were sent off! When one reflects that these matches were staged before crowds totalling over 2,300,000, in an atmosphere charged with excitement and drama, when one considers the high stakes involved—financial rewards, club prestige, individual fame, etc.—then the assertion that European football "has a long history of violence" is unfair and hardly substantiated by evidence. Similar statistics, for other seasons, prove in fact that European tournaments produce on the whole less violence and cause less trouble than experienced in most European (including British) domestic competitions.

Furthermore, the oft advanced theory that matches between British and Continental teams are particularly "explosive", because of the different interpretation of the rules, is rather presumptuous. There was the odd occasion, like last term, when after two rounds in the Cup-Winners' and the Fairs Cup, out of a total of six players who had been sent off, three were British—Dempsey (Chelsea), Rolland (Dundee United) and Bates (Leeds)—whilst the other three received marching orders against British sides, namely Vieri (Inter-Milan) v. Newcastle, Geyer (Dynamo Dresden) v. Leeds and Stankov (CSKA Sofia) v. Chelsea.

But it should be remembered that last term English League football had reached an unprecedented peak of cold-blooded violence. No wonder that this season the Football League management committee were forced to order a comprehensive and long overdue clean-up, which under the guise of the "Refs' Revolution" is thankfully beginning to rid English soccer of organised brutalities. Now that the tackle from behind has been outlawed, the so-called "professional" fouls abolished and that crude "gamesmanship" ended, the English have at last fallen in line with the rest of the soccer world.

Control

We can look forward to cleaner games in international tournaments—provided, of course, that the others—like Rapid Bucharest—stop copying English football 1970 style! English referees must also learn to apply the laws of the game as they were intended, and not shirk their responsibilities. Since 1969, in fact, fewer and fewer officials from this country have been called upon to control international matches. After the heavily criticised performance by England's World Cup ref Jack Taylor, in the Borussia Mönchen-Gladbach v. Inter-Milan play-off in Berlin, the stock of our officials is not particularly high in Europe at the moment.

To the long list of misconceptions about European football must be added the idea that only games involving foreign teams are likely to cause trouble. Two years ago there was that deplorable Fairs Cup semi-final between Newcastle and Glasgow Rangers. After a goalless draw at Ibrox, in which the Scots failed to break through a massed and tough-tackling visiting defence, the teams met in the return at St. James's Park before a full house of 60,000.

Graceful

Twice spectators invaded the field, but when Newcastle scored to make it 2-0 it also heralded the third invasion of the pitch, presumably by enraged Rangers fans. Following some of the most disgraceful scenes ever witnessed anywhere in Europe, Welsh referee Bill Gow was forced to suspend the game for 17 minutes (!), while police with dog-handlers broke up numerous fights and cleared the field before the match could be resumed! Eighty-nine people were hurt, mostly by flying bottles and 30 "fans" were arrested!

● Continued overleaf

Leeds United and England trainer Les Cocker.

RUMANIAN FA SET EXAMPLE

There can be little doubt that part of the trouble is to be found in the exaggerated rewards nowadays offered to players for success in the lucrative international tournaments. And the stakes are high, let there be no mistake! During their first year in the Fairs Cup Newcastle boosted in six games the unbelievably aggregate attendances of 334,000—an average of 55,700 spectators per match!

Tangible

The club made a net profit of £120,000! Naturally, the players, too, have benefited as never before, so that the most popular chant in English football today is "into Europe". Currently more and more footballers throughout the Continent—including those from behind the so-called "Iron Curtain"—where clubs have gradually departed from the amateur concept, can look forward to more tangible rewards than they could hope for in the past. Gone are the days when the unpaid players from the relatively poorer Eastern European lands had to be content with gifts or other small material inducements which was all their clubs could afford.

● *Continued from previous page*

I well remember accompanying the players and officials of the Czech team Sparta Prague—on their visit here to play West Ham in the Cup-Winners' Cup in 1964—to the cheapest stores in London's Oxford Street, so they could spend their miserly daily allowance of £1 10s.!

Now there are few branches of sport in which the old cliché—"money is the root of all evil"—applies with equal accuracy as in soccer. Hard cash is now in vogue almost everywhere. But it all began in the (soccerwise) most commercialised countries in the world, namely England and Italy. They have shown the way in the abolition of the maximum wage, with organised players' unions and also on how to blackmail clubs into extravagant and often undeserved financial rewards.

Maximum pay for a minimum of effort—seems to be their slogan. I wonder if it is just a coincidence that next to paying their footballers the highest wages and bonuses of any land, these two countries also have the worst record for players' lack of discipline, hooliganism and crowd behaviour in Europe?

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IMPORTANCE OF CONSISTENT TRAINING

I cannot stress too strongly the importance of consistent training. There should be sufficient exercises to develop all parts of the anatomy. I would advise a training programme of alternate days, this allowing time for nature and muscular tissue to gather full strength for further employment. Although daily repetition of exercises is important the use of heavier weights in lifting tends to increase and strengthen the size of muscular tissue rapidly.

Weight training is used by most sportsmen, and footballers too. This type of training is usually an insurance against injury on the field as well as a benefit to one physically. Stronger muscles greatly help to reduce injury rate where footballers have to manoeuvre, swerve and suddenly change direction. A weight trained player can stand up to hazards much easier than one who has never practised any form of resistance training.

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African Round-up . . . by ROGER MACDONALD

Champions Cup ends in uproar

NOT for the first time, and probably not for the last, the African Champion Clubs Cup ended in uproar, with the holders, Asante Kotoko Sporting Club of Ghana, walking off the field. Their title went to the Cameroons side, Canon of Yaounde, following one of the stormiest play-offs in African football history.

Kotoko seemed certain to retain the Cup when they won the first leg in Kumasi by three goals to nil, a score which flattered the Canon defence, who escaped full retribution for a series of amazing blunders. But in Yaounde a fortnight later it was the turn of the Canon attack to show their paces, and with the final decided this year on a points basis, their 2-0 win (both goals coming from Lea) was more than sufficient to force a play-off.

According to the arrangements made earlier in the month by the African F.A., this was already fixed for Yaounde 48 hours later—African football remains far from affluent enough to stage matches in a neutral country. Watched by a highly excitable crowd numbering nearly 42,000, Canon dominated the match for long periods, and took the lead in the 72nd minute through N'Dongo. So Kotoko abandoned their cautious defensive game and threw everything into attack. Eight minutes from time they got the ball in the net, only for the referee to disallow it on the grounds of handball.

All at once, pandemonium. The Kotoko players surrounded the referee, accusing him of being intimidated by the crowd; but he refused to give way. Suddenly the circle of Ghanaians broke, and they strode off, single file, to the dressing rooms—heads down and grim faced, ignoring the cat-calls of the spectators. Kotoko officials pleaded with them to go back, and succeeded; but it was too late. Now the Canon players were lining up to receive the Cup, for the referee had abandoned the match and Canon had been declared the new champions of Africa.

Canon's victory surprised all the experts, for it was their first experience of international competition, and many thought their erratic defence would be their undoing. However their German team manager, Peter Schnittger, who also directs the Cameroons national side, decided on an all-out attacking game, and the gamble paid off. Canon's international forwards, Eteme, Lea and Manga-Onguene, scored 20 goals in four home legs, including a 7-3 win against the Gabonese, Association Sportive Solidarite, and 7-4 against Club Victoire of Congo-kinshashu.

AFRICAN CHAMPION CLUBS' CUP 1971

Ashanti Kotoko, (Ghana) a bye		Kotoko	1:6	Kotoko	1:3	Kotoko	1:1	Kotoko	3:0:0†
Mirrekh (Sudan)	2:0*	Mirrekh	2:4						
Tel Asmara (Ethiopia)	1:1								
Esperance (Tunisia)	0:1	Esperance	w/o	Ismaili	1:0				
Nadi El Ahli (Libya)	1:1								
Ismaili (U.A.R.), a bye		Ismaili	scr						
Coffee (Uganda), a bye		Coffee	w/o	Coffee	0:0	Olympic	1:0		
Young Africans (Tanz.)	2:0	Africans	scr						
Public Work (Somalia)	0:0								
M.M.M. Tamatave (Malagasy)	2:3	M.M.M.	2:0	Olympic	0:2				
Maseru United (Lesotho)	1:2								
Great Olympic (Ghana)	0:3	Olympic	1:7						
Abaluhya (Kenya)	0:1								
Secteur 6 (Niger)	1:0*	Enugu	2:3	Enugu	1:0	A.S.E.C.	2:1	Canon	0:2:1
Enugu Rangers (Nigeria)	0:1								
Conakry I (Guinea), a bye		Conakry	1:3						
A.S.E.C. (Ivory Coast), a bye		A.S.E.C.	2:2	A.S.E.C.	0:2				
Stade Malien (Mali)	1:4	Malien	2:1						
Jaarafs Daker (Senegal)	1:0								
Dynamic Togolais (Togo), a bye		Dynamic	2:2	Dynamic	1:3	Canon	1:4		
V. Club Mokanda (Brazzaville)	0:3	Mokanda	1:0						
Assoc. Porto Nov. (Dahomey)	2:0								
V. Club (Kinshasha), a bye		V. Club	2:4	Canon	2:4				
A. S. Solidarite (Gabon)	3:1	Canon	0:7						
Canon de Yaounde (Cameroon)	7:2								

Read results downwards * won on lots † abandoned after 82 minutes scr. club scratched w/o opponents given walkover

African Round-up . . . by ROGER MACDONALD

As for Kotoko, this was their third final, and their fifth time in the competition. Their hugely experienced team included some of the best players in Africa—the Continent's Footballer of the Year, Ibrahim Sunday, proving outstanding to the last. It was Sunday who scored Kotoko's decisive goal against their fellow Ghanaians, Great Olympic, the national champions, in the semi-final; and it was Sunday who got the ball into the net in the play-off with Canon, all in vain.

But he was well supported by Abukari, a magnificently fit striker with immense shooting power in either foot; by Odamé, the schemer of goals in midfield; and, when the occasion demanded, as good a defender as one could find in all Africa.

The African press have just voted for their Footballer of the year, with Abrahim Sunday succeeding Salif Keita, of Saint Etienne and Mali, in winning the "golden ball". The leading five were:

IBRAHIM SUNDAY **(Kotoko and Ghana):** the Kotoko captain and centre-forward, and immensely supple player with high powers of perception; swift and deadly in the penalty area. Sunday, a regular member of the Ghanaian national side, tried in vain to persuade his team to return to the field in the play-off against Canon, even though it was his "goal" that had been disallowed in the closing minutes.

ROBERT MENSAH **(Kotoko and Ghana):** voted into second place following his death on November 2, while trying to protect a friend in a bar-room brawl. Mensah received a stab wound in the chest, and died in hospital, aged 32. He leaves a wife and three children, and an undying memory of his acrobatic feats in the Ghanaian goal. Kotoko struggled through the semi-final without him, but in the final he was sorely missed.

CHARLES LEA **(Canon and Cameroons):** a startling rise to national and international fame in less than a year. Lea has become one of the most formidable goalscorers in Africa, turning the Cameroons from an indifferent side into one to be reckoned with. The Kotoko coach, Hungary's Thomas Kertesz, said after the final: "Canon are a great team, but Lea is the source of that greatness."

LAURENT POKOU **(A.S.E.C. d'Abidjan and Ivory Coast):** a serious injury to his left knee caused by a collision with a goalkeeper during a league match put Pokou out of action for five months last year, months he spent in the care of a specialist at Lyon in France. Although the treatment was successful, Pokou was far from match fit when A.S.E.C. risked him at inside-forward in the African Cup tie against Canon, which they lost 5-3 on aggregate. Pokou, top scorer in the 1970 African Nations Cup, has been playing league football since he was 13, back in 1960.

SADOUK ATTOUGA **(Club African and Tunisia):** regular international goalkeeper for seven years, Attouga has won two league championship medals, four winners' medals in the Tunisian Cup, and another gold medal in the Mediterranean Games. His strength is in handling the ball under pressure, though his supreme agility makes him equally adept at saving high and low shots. But, curiously enough, he hates playing under floodlights.

Fanatic

In Lome there was an extraordinary match between a Togolese Government side and the local diplomatic corps. The Togolese President, General Etienne Eyadema, who is apparently a soccer fanatic, organised the game, and persuaded his Foreign Minister Joachim Hunlede, to lead the Government side.

Hunlede, a useful amateur player in his younger days, surpassed himself in scoring the winning goal with a tremendous shot. After the game the diplomatic team, captained by the French Ambassador to Togo, Jean-Pierre Campredon, lived up to their name by applauding their opponents off the field.

The match, part of the celebrations for Togo's National Day, was watched by a crowd of no fewer than 40,000.

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League Tables

DIVISION I

	P	Home W	Home D	Home L	Home F	Home A	Away W	Away D	Away L	Away F	Away A	Pt.
Man. Utd.	25	9	1	2	26	15	5	6	2	24	18	35
Man. City	25	9	3	1	31	9	4	5	3	17	16	34
Leeds	25	9	4	0	26	7	5	2	5	12	13	34
Derby	25	8	4	0	26	8	5	3	5	16	15	33
Sheff. Utd.	25	7	5	1	29	12	6	1	5	16	21	32
Wolves	25	8	5	0	29	14	4	2	6	16	21	31
Tottenham	25	9	3	1	30	9	1	6	5	10	19	29
Arsenal	25	8	1	3	22	9	4	4	5	13	18	29
Liverpool	25	8	3	1	21	13	3	3	7	9	12	28
Chelsea	25	6	5	2	23	14	3	4	5	9	14	27
Stoke	25	5	4	3	15	11	3	4	6	9	17	24
West Ham	25	6	3	4	15	9	2	4	6	12	16	23
Coventry	25	5	6	1	15	11	1	4	8	13	31	22
Everton	25	7	3	3	21	10	0	4	8	5	17	21
Leicester	25	4	4	5	10	9	2	5	5	15	21	21
Ipswich	25	4	6	3	12	11	1	5	6	8	23	21
Newcastle	25	5	3	4	18	14	2	3	8	11	23	20
Southampton	25	5	3	4	20	19	3	1	9	12	31	20
Huddersfld	26	4	3	6	10	15	2	4	1	13	23	19
Crystal Pal	25	3	4	5	16	18	3	2	8	7	21	18
West Brom	25	2	3	7	9	16	3	3	7	11	20	16
Nottm. For	26	3	3	7	16	20	1	4	8	15	29	15

DIVISION II

	P	Home W	Home D	Home L	Home F	Home A	Away W	Away D	Away L	Away F	Away A	Pt.
Norwich	25	9	4	0	25	9	6	4	2	14	10	38
Millwall	25	8	5	0	25	12	5	6	3	17	19	33
Q.P.R.	25	10	2	0	25	6	2	6	5	12	15	32
Sunderland	25	6	6	1	23	16	3	5	4	14	22	29
Birmingham	25	8	4	0	29	11	0	8	5	7	14	28
Carlisle	25	8	2	2	20	12	4	2	7	17	18	28
Middlsbro	25	10	2	1	18	8	2	2	8	15	25	26
Burnley	25	6	3	3	24	14	3	2	6	19	19	27
Preston	25	9	0	4	21	10	1	6	5	14	19	26
Luton	25	5	5	2	17	13	2	7	4	12	15	26
Bristol City	25	7	2	4	25	17	2	4	6	10	15	24
Sheff. Wed.	25	6	4	2	20	14	2	4	7	12	18	24
Swindon	25	4	4	4	12	9	4	4	5	10	15	24
Charlton	25	7	3	2	21	12	3	1	9	17	31	23
Blackpool	25	6	4	2	24	9	3	1	9	11	20	23
Oxford	24	6	5	2	17	10	1	4	6	7	15	23
Portsmouth	25	5	6	2	21	16	2	2	8	18	26	22
Orient	25	7	3	2	21	13	1	2	10	10	30	21
Fulham	25	6	3	4	18	18	2	0	10	11	23	19
Cardiff	24	5	3	3	20	13	1	3	9	12	29	18
Hull	25	5	3	5	16	16	1	3	8	8	19	18
Watford	25	4	4	5	12	15	0	1	11	6	31	13

DIVISION III

	P	Home W	Home D	Home L	Home F	Home A	Away W	Away D	Away L	Away F	Away A	Pt.
Notts Co.	23	8	1	2	21	6	7	4	1	20	10	35
Bournemth	23	11	1	0	30	9	2	6	3	14	11	33
Aston Villa	23	10	0	2	24	7	5	2	4	21	15	32
Swansea	23	7	5	2	17	6	6	2	3	14	12	31
Brighton	23	7	3	1	17	8	5	3	4	17	15	31
Rotherham	23	6	5	1	26	15	5	2	4	11	11	29
Shrewsbury	23	8	2	2	23	10	3	2	6	14	17	26
Plymouth	24	7	3	3	25	15	4	3	6	19	22	26
Chesterfield	23	8	1	3	17	9	3	2	6	15	15	25
Bristol R.	23	8	1	2	29	13	1	6	5	10	18	25
Oldham	24	5	3	5	16	24	5	1	5	16	17	24
Port Vale	23	5	5	2	16	16	3	2	6	9	15	23
Wrexham	23	5	3	3	19	14	3	2	7	13	20	21
Tranmere	23	6	4	1	16	8	0	5	7	10	21	21
Rochdale	23	7	2	2	20	11	1	3	8	12	29	21
Halifax	23	6	3	3	18	12	1	3	7	6	16	20
Bradford	23	5	4	2	19	14	3	0	9	10	24	20
Blackburn	24	5	2	4	12	12	2	6	7	10	23	20
Bolton	22	5	5	3	9	8	2	4	5	11	14	19
Walsall	24	4	4	3	15	10	1	3	9	16	32	17
York	23	2	5	4	12	13	2	2	8	16	27	15
Torquay	24	4	4	5	21	22	0	3	8	4	22	15
Barnsley	23	2	4	6	12	22	1	5	5	4	15	15
Mansfield	23	1	4	6	4	16	2	3	7	10	19	15

DIVISION IV

	P	Home W	Home D	Home L	Home F	Home A	Away W	Away D	Away L	Away F	Away A	Pt.
Brentford	24	10	1	2	39	11	3	6	2	10	9	33
Scunthrpe	23	6	5	1	17	7	7	1	3	15	11	32
Southport	24	9	3	0	32	10	3	3	6	11	13	30
Southend	23	10	1	1	28	11	2	4	5	10	17	29
Grimsby	23	9	1	2	32	14	3	3	5	14	21	28
Gillingham	22	8	1	3	20	10	4	2	4	13	17	27
Lincoln	23	9	2	0	25	8	1	4	7	14	26	26
Wrkingtn	23	5	5	2	19	4	2	6	3	11	12	25
Colchester	23	7	4	0	20	8	2	3	7	14	25	25
Cambridge	23	6	4	1	25	10	2	4	6	9	21	24
Doncaster	23	5	3	3	19	14	4	3	5	11	17	24
Bury	23	7	1	3	22	13	1	6	5	7	15	23
Nthamptn	23	6	3	2	23	10	2	4	6	13	27	23
Reading	23	8	0	3	22	12	2	3	7	7	24	23
Peterboro	23	8	2	2	29	12	0	4	7	12	24	22
Aldershot	23	2	7	3	11	12	4	3	4	13	19	22
Newport	22	6	2	3	17	12	2	2	7	13	26	20
Chester	24	5	5	1	29	9	0	4	9	6	19	19
Exeter	23	5	2	4	17	16	2	3	7	13	28	19
Darlingtn	22	4	5	1	13	9	2	1	9	12	36	18
Crewe	23	5	3	4	16	23	1	0	10	11	27	15
Barrow	23	1	6	4	10	13	3	1	8	9	24	15
Hrtlepool	23	5	2	5	18	17	0	2	9	8	28	14

SCOTTISH LEAGUE—DIVISION I

	P	Home W	Home D	Home L	Home F	Home A	Away W	Away D	Away L	Away F	Away A	Pt.
Celtic	20	8	1	1	30	10	9	1	0	35	7	36
Aberdeen	20	9	0	1	37	9	7	3	0	23	5	35
Rangers	20	7	0	3	23	11	7	0	3	23	11	28
Hibernian	20	7	1	2	18	5	4	3	3	16	11	26
Dundee	20	4	5	1	17	7	4	3	3	15	14	24
Hearts	20	5	4	1	17	10	3	4	3	16	16	24
Partick	20	5	2	3	25	20	2	5	3	11	15	21
St Johnstn	20	4	4	2	15	11	3	2	5	17	21	20
Kilmarnck	20	7	1	2	21	12	1	2	7	8	23	19
Ayr	20	1	4	5	5	14	4	3	3	15	13	17
Morton	20	3	2	5	10	12	4	0	6	19	22	16
Falkirk	20	5	2	3	14	13	2	0	8	13	28	16
Motherwll	20	5	1	4	20	20	1	3	6	9	25	16
Dundee U	20	2	3	4	22	22	3	0	7	13	23	15
East Fife	20	2	3	5	12	22	1	5	4	8	17	14
Dunfermline	20	1	4	5	10	17	1	3	6	7	14	11
Clyde	20	3	0	7	8	20	1	3	6	9	26	11
Airdrie	20	1	4	5	16	26	2	1	7	9	29	11

DIVISION II

	P	Home W	Home D	Home L	Home F	Home A	Away W	Away D	Away L	Away F	Away A	Pt.
Cowdenbth	23	7	2	2	25	7	6	6	0	23	7	34
Arbroath	23	7	3	0	27	12	5	2	4	19	15	29
St Mirren	22	8	2	2	33	15	5	0	5	21	19	28
Dumbarton	22	6	1	3	29	16	6	3	3	25	23	28
Stirling A.	20	6	4	1	21	11	5	1	3	23	15	27
Qn of Sth	21	5	0	4	18	12	7	3	2	21	12	27
Stranraer	22	4	5	3	20	23	5	2	3	19	17	25
Montrose	21	4	2	4	18	14	6	1	4	30	17	21
Raith	23	5	4	3	24	18	4	1	6	13	17	21
E Stirling	21	4	2	4	15	15	4	4	3	15	16	22
Queens P	21	6	2	2	20	10	2	4	5	10	21	23
Clydebnk	22	3	3	6	19	20	3	5	2	13	13	20
Berwick	21	3	2	4	14	13	5	1	6	18	17	19
Stenhsmr	21	4	3	3	14	10	3	1	7	11	20	18
Albion R.	23	6	1	4	18	11	1	3	8	10	25	18
Alloa	21	2	1	8	10	24	4	2	4	17	17	15
Brechin	21	3	3	5	11	21	2	1	7	11	24	14
Forfar	22	3	2	7	9	27	0	2	8	8	30	10
Hamilton	22	3	1	8	12	33	0	1	9	5	32	8

EIRE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt.
Waterford	15	12	1	2	39	19	25
Hibernians	14	10	1	3	36	11	21
Finn Harp	14	10	0	4	35	19	20
Bohemians	15	7	4	4	26	17	18
Dundalk	15	7	2	6	24	24	16
Shamrock Rovers	15	7	2	6	26	21	16
Celtic	15	6	3	6	22	28	15
St. Patrick	15	5	4	6	16	19	14
Shelbourne	15	4	5	6	16	19	13
Limerick	15	4	3	8	19	31	11
Sligo	15	4	3	8	22	32	11
Athlone	15	3	4	8	16	33	10
Drogheda	15	3	3	9	13	21	9
Drumcondra	15	3	3	9	14	30	9

NORTHERN IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt.
Glentoran	10	7	2	1	30	8	16
Linfield	11	5	4	2	26	14	14
Portadown	10	6	1	3	18	11	13
Coleraine	10	4	4	2	27	21	12
Ards	10	5	2	3	16	10	12
Ballymena	9	5	2	2	17	11	12
Distillery	11	4	3	4	17	23	11
Crusaders	10	3	4	3	17	19	11
Derry	10	2	4	4	22	25	8
Glenavon	11	2	4	5	34	21	8
Bangor	11	1	3	7	11	31	5
Cliftonville	11	0	3	8	10	29	3

Tony Potrac of Chelsea is tackled by Geoff Hutt of Huddersfield during the 2–2 draw at Stamford Bridge.

More next month

League Tables

Soccer match with a difference . . . played in Seoul, South Korea between politicians! A stout Korean National Assemblyman falls on the ground as his political rival takes possession. The match, between members of the ruling Democratic Republican party and the major opposition party, the New Democratic Republican party, was played in the Municipal Stadium and ended in a 5-2 victory for the opposition members. Perhaps Edward Heath and Harold Wilson will one day meet on a soccer pitch to decide vital issues of the day.

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt.
Olympiakos	15	10	3	2	24	12	38
Panathinaikos	14	11	1	2	49	8	37
Aris	15	8	6	1	22	8	37
AEK	15	8	5	2	24	9	36
Paok	15	7	4	4	22	10	33
Volos	15	6	4	5	13	15	31
Kavala	15	6	3	6	14	16	30
Iraklis	15	4	7	4	11	14	30
Aigaleo	15	5	5	5	14	13	30
Panionis	14	5	3	4	11	9	29
Ethnikos	15	5	4	6	19	20	29
Patras	15	3	7	5	18	19	29
Pontir	15	4	3	8	15	25	26
Trikala	15	1	9	5	13	20	26
Veroia	15	3	4	8	9	24	25
Pierikos	15	2	5	8	7	21	24
Apollon	15	2	5	8	8	22	24
Nicosia	15	2	3	9	6	21	21

EAST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt.
Magdeburg	14	8	4	2	26	16	20
Carl Zeiss Jena	14	7	4	3	19	11	18
Vorwaerts	14	6	5	3	18	16	17
Dynamo Berlin	14	5	6	3	19	12	16
Dynamo Dresden	14	5	5	4	25	18	15
Chemie Halle	14	5	5	4	19	18	15
Rostock	14	5	4	5	18	12	14
Zwickau	14	4	6	4	13	9	14
Loc. Leipzig	14	5	3	6	14	16	13
Wismut	14	5	3	6	17	22	13
Karlmarxstadt	14	4	3	7	16	21	11
Riesa	14	4	3	7	13	24	11
Union	14	1	8	5	3	14	10
Stralsund	14	3	3	8	12	28	9

LUXEMBOURG

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt.
Rumelange	15	12	1	2	34	19	25
Aris	15	9	2	4	40	15	20
Spora	15	8	3	4	29	19	19
Jeunesse	15	9	1	5	31	22	19
Red Boys	15	7	3	5	35	27	17
Beggen	15	7	2	6	30	25	16
Terange	15	5	4	6	18	24	14
The National	15	4	5	6	19	23	13
Union	15	5	2	8	22	25	12
Eitelbruck	15	3	4	8	25	31	10
Niedercorn	15	2	5	8	22	41	9
Alliance	15	2	2	11	12	46	6

Spanish player killed

One of the outsiders for the Spanish championship this year, Real Sociedad of San Sebastian, received a serious blow to their chances when their centre-half, Sain Irastorza, was killed in a recent car crash. Irastorza, aged 25, was a passenger in a car which skidded off the road and crashed just outside the city. The driver of the car was also killed and two other passengers seriously injured.

Almost Alan Ball's first goal for Arsenal . . . his shot skids across the Swindon goalmouth in a FA Cup tie and George Armstrong (hidden) applies the final touch. Consolation for Ball: he netted Arsenal's second goal in their 2-0 victory.

RUMANIA WILL BE TOUGH!

FOR Hungarian football 1972 AD opened with mixed luck. The national team lost 1-0 in Madrid—the first defeat under manager Rudolf Illovszky. However, this setback must be put in perspective and cannot be regarded as a serious calamity.

On New Year's Day, this 17-strong squad travelled to Spain—Nosko, P. Juhasz, Fazekas, Bene, A. Dunai, Zambo, A. Toth (all Dozsa), Geczi, Pancsics (both Vasas), Rothermel (Tatabanya), Szalai (SBTC) and Kovacs (Videoton). They moved into Eurovilla, a holiday resort used by the Spanish national team, with modern bungalows and perfect facilities for football and also for tennis, swimming and golf.

The match, scheduled for January 12, was supposed to be labelled Madrid v. Budapest, but when the Hungarian party visited the capital to see the Real-Atletico local "derby", they were astonished to see posters advertising the forthcoming game as a full international.

National coach, the Czech-Hungarian-Spanish Kubala, said that this was the only way to attract a sizable crowd. Faced with this *fait accompli*, the Magyars had no alternative but to agree that the game would go into the record books as a full international.

Prestige

After only ten days' training, Illovszky's usual team had to be changed due to the indisposition of Nosko and Pancsics. Fabian took the No. 2 shirt and the Videoton centre-back, Kovacs, collected his second cap. Despite Kubala's assertions, only 30,000 people turned up (as opposed to 120,000 for the Real match), and a scrappy game was decided by an Arieta goal in the 83rd minute.

He came in for Rexach (Barcelona) at half-time, and the presence of several "provincial" players, such as the Bilbao 'keeper, Iribar, indicated that the Spaniards had no intention whatsoever of sticking to the original arrangement. Illovszky wasn't particularly worried about the result, because, as he said, the team wasn't ready yet for such an important prestige friendly.

One wonders why this fixture was accepted in the first place—surely the Hungarians must have learned from bitter experience that easily earned pesetas have a habit of devaluing the team's prestige and undermining the players' self-confidence.

Surprisingly, the European Championship draw hadn't cheered up the party either. "Rumania will be very difficult to beat," said a leading journalist to me on the phone from Madrid. They are underrated, and we are expected to walk into the semi-finals. We would have much rather played Italy." This cautious outlook is justified because there is a long-standing rivalry between these two countries, which will give the tie an unpleasant edge.

Campaign

But in my view this is a pretty good draw for Hungary. Both Ujpesti Dozsa (v. Celtic) and Ferencvaros (v. Zeljeznical) have even-money chances to progress in the respective competitions, although the club sides will be handicapped by the timing of the quarter-finals. The spring season in Hungary doesn't open until February 27 with domestic cup matches, and the league campaign resumes the following weekend.

There will be a friendly v. West Germany on March 29 in Budapest, and the championship race will be interrupted during May—a month kept free for competitive international matches.

The full programme: April 30 v. Rumania (h), May 6 v. Malta—World Cup (h), May 13 v. Rumania (a), May 25 v. Sweden—WC (a).

Komlo have returned triumphantly from a 40,000-kilometre tour, which took in Ecuador, Costa Rica and Colombia. They only played five matches, winning three and drawing two—7 points out of possible 10!

Majority

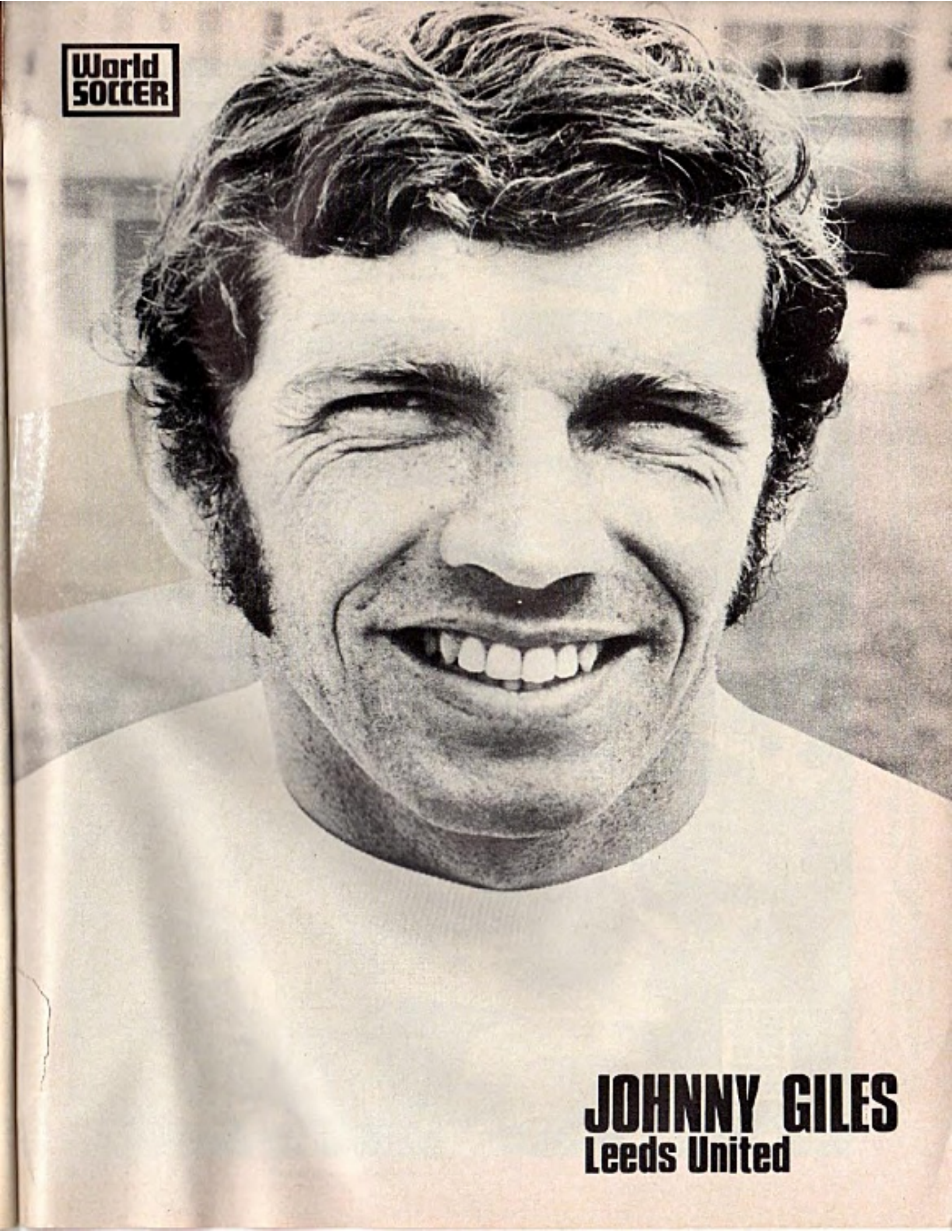
The annual voting for the Player of the Year trophy was conducted by the monthly *Labdarugas*. Only the First Division team managers, coaches and skippers were asked to vote, and by an overwhelming majority, these experts chose Sandor Zambo, the Dozsa midfield ace. Zambo collected 38 votes, Geczi came second with 14, and Antal Dunai third with 4.

Surprisingly, Ferenc Bene only got two nominations. The popular "Ferike" was openly disappointed and said: "Nobody is a prophet in his own home. I got 10 points in the *France Football* poll for the European Footballer of the Year, but couldn't get into the top three in my own country." Zambo, once an *enfant terrible*, is a reformed character, who deserves the accolade. I always thought that he was slightly overrated, but his display in Paris convinced me that he is an exceptionally gifted player. The "team of the year" is identical to that of the national eleven, with Szoke at outside-right instead of Fazekas. The "reserve" team chosen is more intriguing, because these players will most likely be the internationals of the future. Buus—Fabian, Kovacs, Balint, Czeczeli; Szalai, Basti; Fazekas, Koesis, Karsai, A. Toth.

The 36-year-old referee, Karoly Palotai, was recommended for a place on the UEFA and FIFA lists. Palotai was an active player with ETO Gyor until 1966, and although he qualified as a ref in '59, only took up the whistle after his retirement.

Three years later he was on the league roster and on October 11, '69, handled his first Division I match—Haladas v. Salgotarjan. Now, after only five years' service, he is in line to work with the Lo Bellos and Jack Taylors of the refereeing hierarchy. I'm retelling this story in order to sing the praises of Mr. Palotai, but it is significant how quickly an ex-pro can progress—perhaps in time British officialdom will also see the light and assure quicker promotion for ex-players.

Janos Farkas of Vasas.


World SOCCER
JOHNNY GILES
Leeds United

ITALY Back row left to right: Dino Zoff, Mario Bertini, Tazio Roversi, Aldo Bet, Enrico Albertosi, Luigi Riva, Valcareggi.
Front, left to right: Romeo Benetti, Giacinto Facchetti, Gianario de Sisti, Roberto Boninsegna, Pierino Prati, Sergio Santarini.